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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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20 April 1995

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-95-076*

## CONTENTS

*20 April 1995*

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Discuss Peace Talks Over Phone *[Jericho VOP]* .......... 1

### Inter-Arab Affairs

Boycott of Israel Meeting Postponed for 'Lack of Quorum' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* .......... 1

### Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 11 Apr .......... 1

### Palestinian Affairs

Al-Quds Radio Reports Oklahoma Blast, Casualties *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* .......... 1
    Hamas, Islamic Jihad Deny Involvement *[Jerusalem Radio]* .......... 2
    'Arafat Sends Cable of Condolences *[Jericho VOP]* .......... 2
'Arafat Receives U.S. Charge D'affaires *[Jericho VOP]* .......... 2
Official on Dialogue With Hamas, Islamic Jihad *[Jericho VOP]* .......... 2
Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi on Conflict With 'Arafat *[London AL-WASAT 23 Apr]* .......... 3
Islamic Jihad Tehran Representative on 'Zionist' Regime *[ETTELA'AT 6 Apr]* .......... 5
Hamas Official on Relations With Egypt, PA *[Jerusalem International]* .......... 6
Hamas Statement Warns Authority Against Disarmament *[AFP]* .......... 6
Gaza Factions Form Committee To Settle Crisis *[Tel Aviv Radio]* .......... 7
'Abd-Rabbuh: Talks With Jordan Suspended *[Jerusalem TV]* .......... 7

## ARAB AFRICA

### Algeria

Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Arrives in I-N-Amenas .......... 8
    Says Visit To Strengthen Ties *[JANA]* .......... 8
    Meets With President Zeroual *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 8
    Holds 2d Round of Talks *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 8
Agreement Reached With Saudi Arabia To Reschedule Debts *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 8
Al-Nahdah Leader Comments on Talks With Zeroual *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Apr]* . 8
Zeroual Open To 'Constructive Proposal' To End Crisis *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 10
    Urges Parties To 'Display Realism' *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 10
Presidency Issues Third, Last Statement on Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 11
    Further on Latest Statement on Dialogue *[Algiers TV]* .......... 11
Security Forces Report Various Search Operations .......... 12
    Kill 90 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 12
    Arrest 28 'Armed Criminals' *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 12
    Kill 10 'Terrorists' in Cherarba *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 12
Sifi, Unions, Employers Discuss Social Contract *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 12
1994 Foreign Trade Exchanges Reported *[Algiers Radio]* .......... 12

### Egypt

Reportage on Travel for Libyan Pilgrims to Mecca 13
 Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Travel *[MENA]* 13
 UN Approves Request for Transport *[MENA]* 13
 Musa Praises UN Decision *[MENA]* 13
 Egypt Air Arranges Flights *[MENA]* 13
 More Details on Pilgrim Flight *[AFP]* 14
 Egypt Air Postpones Flights *[MENA]* 14
 Civil Aviation on Airspace Violation *[AFP]* 14
 Officials: Libyan Plane Used Airspace *[AFP]* 15
Musa Says Position on NPT Firm, Denies Pressure *[London MBC TV]* 15
Israeli Minister Comments on Talks With Mubarak *[HA'ARETZ 19 Apr]* 15
Writer: Saddam Unconcerned With People's Hardship *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 16 Apr]* 16
Rights Group Seeks Release of Imprisoned Lawyers *[AFP]* 16
Qina Court Sentences 3 Defendants To Hang *[MENA]* 17
Security Forces Storm 'Terrorist' Hideout, Kill 3 *[Cairo Radio]* 17

### Libya

Hajj Pilgrims Appeal To World Organizations *[JANA]* 17
Opposition Conference in Atlanta Reported *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Apr]* 17

### Sudan

Al-Turabi Announces 'Renaissance of Islam' *[Paris LE FIGARO 15 Apr]* 19
Al-Bashir Returns From IGADD Summit *[Omdurman Radio]* 21

## ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Minister Warns Aginst Undermining GCC Security *[SPA]* 22
 Comments on Libyan Pilgrims *[Riyadh Radio]* 22

### Bahrain

Amir Condoles Clinton on 'Horrible' Explosion *[WAKH]* 22
U.S. Congressional Delegation Meets Officials 22
 Defense Minister Greets Team *[WAKH]* 22
 Foreign Minister Comments on Ties *[WAKH]* 22
 Amir Lauds 'Wise' U.S. Policy *[WAKH]* 23
Last Phase of Joint Air Exercise Concludes *[WAKH]* 23

### Kuwait

Investment Accord Signed With Tajikistan *[KUNA]* 23
 Delegation Ends Visit, Departs *[Kuwait Radio]* 23

### Qatar

Foreign Minister Receives Message From Christopher *[WAKH]* 24
Amir Receives Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan *[WAKH]* 24
Heir Apparent Receives Iraqi Justice Minister *[INA]* 24

### Saudi Arabia

Libyan Pilgrims Arrive in Jeddah, Celebrate *[Tripoli Radio]* 24

### Yemen

President Receives Omani Minister, Qabus Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 24
Foreign Minister Receives Cuban Deputy Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 24

    Foreign Minister on Saudi Ties, Regional Issues *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 12 Apr]* ... 25
    Daily Publishes Correction to Minister's Remarks *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 13 Apr]* ... 27

## IRAQ

Spokesman Refutes 'Odious' Talbott Accusations *[INA]* ... 28
Ramadan: 986 'Much Worse' Than Previous Resolutions *[INA]* ... 28
Health Minister on Negative Effects of Resolution *[INA]* ... 29
Assembly Committee Rejects 'Evil' Resolution *[INA]* ... 29
Opposition Radio Attacks Regime Rejection of 986 *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revoluion]* ... 29
Country To Boycott UN Session on Debts to Egypt *[INA]* ... 30
Minister: Turkey Responsible for Invasion Results *[INA]* ... 31
Kurdish Sources Note Partial Turkish Withdrawal *[Voice of Iraqi People]* ... 31
Opposition Radio Reports 'Pitched' Fighting in South *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* ... 31
    Army Units Attack al-'Amarah Area *[Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic]* ... 32
Immediate Mecca Flights for Pilgrims Sought *[INA]* ... 32
U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN *[INA]* ... 32
Iran-Gulf Countries Relations, Politics Addressed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 29 Jan]* ... 32
*Commentary, Analysis on State of the Arab World *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 30 Jan]* ... 35
*Manufacturing of Agricultural Equipment Reported *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 30 Jan]* ... 36

## ISRAEL

Leaders Offer Aid to Clinton on Oklahoma City Blast *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Peres Denies Presenting Stand on Border in Interview *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Netanyahu: Any Golan Withdrawal a Threat to Security *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Labor Argues Over Amending Platform Regarding Golan *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Beilin Sees South Lebanon in Terms of Syria Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 38
Agreement Reached With Egypt To Upgrade Arms Talks *[HA'ARETZ 19 Apr]* ... 38
    'Ivri Said 'Furious' Over Upgrade *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* ... 38
Document Bleak on Status of Multilateral Talks *[HA'ARETZ 20 Apr]* ... 39
Labor's Zvili Comments on Talks in PRC *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 39
No Casualties in Firebomb Attacks; 9 Injured *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 39

## JORDAN

Foreign Minister Addresses NPT Renewal Conference *[JORDAN TIMES 20-21 Apr]* ... 40
    Meets Gore, Views Arab Stands on NPT *[Amman Radio]* ... 41
    Emphasizes Position to U.S. Officials *[Amman Radio]* ... 41
King, Prime Minister Meet U.S. Military Official *[Amman Radio]* ... 42
Joint Committee With Palestinians Meets in Amman *[Amman Radio]* ... 42
    Chairmen Comment on Hamas *[Amman TV]* ... 43

## LEBANON

Government, Religious Leaders View Oklahoma Blast ... 44
    Al-Hariri Condemns 'Criminal Act' *[Beruit Radio]* ... 44
    Shiite Leader Denounces Bombing *[Beruit Radio]* ... 44
Buwayz, Pelletreau Discuss Peace, Bilateral Issues *[Beruit Radio]* ... 44
Fadlallah Interviewed on U.S. Policy Toward Iran *[Tehran International]* ... 44
Fadlallah Calls On Hamas, Jihad To 'Share Roles' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 45

## SYRIA

Al-Shar' Addresses NPT Extension Conference *[Damascus TV]* ... 46
    Says Arab League Position is Clear *[London AL-HAYAH 19 Apr]* ... 47
    Paper Criticizes Big Powers' Position *[Damascus Radio]* ... 47
AL-BA'TH Demands 'Full' Israeli Withdrawal *[Damascus Radio]* ... 47

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

Paper Reports Kabul Obtains Warplanes From India *[Message of Freedom]* ... 49
Council Said Preventing Filming of Bombarded Areas *[Message of Freedom]* ... 49
Isma'il Khan's Forces Repulse Taleban Attack *[Message of Freedom]* ... 49
Taleban Reportedly Reinforcing Positions *[IRNA]* ... 49

### India

Rao Sends Message to Clinton on Oklahoma Blast *[Delhi Radio]* ... 49
Joint Statement Issued at End of Rafsanjani Visit *[Delhi TV]* ... 50
Visit Said Causing U.S. 'Severe Heartburn' *[IRNA]* ... 50
Commentaries View Prithvi Missle Program ... 50
Prithvi Said at 'Dead End' *[THE ECONOMIC TIMES 15 Apr]* ... 50
U.S. 'Pressure' To Halt Program Seen *[DAINIK JAGRAN 16 Apr]* ... 51
Article Debates Armed Forces Budget *[BUSINESS STANDARD 18 Apr]* ... 51

### Iran

'Scores' Reportedly Injured, Killed in Tehran Riots *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 53
Ankara Embassy Denies Report on Riots *[IRNA]* ... 53
Islamic Court Finds 3 Guilty of Spying for U.S. *[Tehran TV]* ... 53
'Thousands' Leave for 'Death to America' Rally *[Tehran International]* ... 54
IRNA Alleges U.S. Violating Article 4 of NPT ... 54
Commentary Examines NPT Extension Conference *[Tehran Radio]* ... 54
Rowhani Addresses Majles on U.S. 'Plots' *[ETTELA'AT 9 Apr]* ... 55
Khamene'i: 'We Are Not Warmongers' *[Tehran Radio]* ... 56
President Warns Against U.S. 'Adventurism' *[IRNA]* ... 57
Radio: Nation's Support Offsets U.S. Acts *[Tehran Radio]* ... 58
Organizations Support President's View on U.S. *[IRNA]* ... 58
Commentaries Mark Anniversary of Severed U.S. Ties ... 59
Struggles Against 'Great Satan' Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 10 Apr]* ... 59
Daily Assesses Relations With U.S. *[SALAM 10 Apr]* ... 59
Paper Says U.S. Policies 'Doomed To Fail' *[ETTELA'AT 5 Apr]* ... 61
NPC Threatens To Exclude 3 U.S. Companies *[IRNA]* ... 62
U.S. Said Unable To Garner Global Support *[HAMSHAHRI 5 Apr]* ... 63
Yazdi Says Country 'Determining Power' in Region *[IRNA]* ... 63
Underground Appeals to Israel on Jordan Radio Link *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Apr]* ... 64
Commentary Views U.S. Visit of Turkey's Ciller *[Tehran International]* ... 64
Sudanese Interviewed Diplomat on Regional Issues *[RESALAT 4 Apr]* ... 64

### Pakistan

Editorials View U.S. Stance, 'Pressure' on Iran ... 66
Clarification of Nation's Stance Urged *[THE NEWS 19 Apr]* ... 66
Bhutto Urged To Condemn U.S.'Threat' *[KHABRAIN 19 Apr]* ... 66
Indo-Iranian Ties, Regional Security Viewed *[THE FRONTIER POST 19 Apr]* ... 67
India's Prithvi Missile Program Viewed *[PAKISTAN 15 Apr]* ... 68
'Alternatives' to Weapons Seen *[PAKISTAN 18 Apr]* ... 68
Ambassador on Possible Purchase of Arms From Russia *[THE NATION 19 Apr]* ... 68

### Sri Lanka

Rebels Announce Unilateral Withdrawal From Truce *[AFP]* ... 70
Shell Army Camps; 3 Injured *[AFP]* ... 71

## Arab-Israeli Talks

### 'Arafat, Peres Discuss Peace Talks Over Phone

*JN1804135095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon received a telephone call from Israeli Foreign Minister Mr. Shim'on Peres. They discussed the latest developments of the political situation and negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Boycott of Israel Meeting Postponed for 'Lack of Quorum'

*JN1804182695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The office of the commissioner general of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office has announced that the meeting scheduled for next Saturday [22 April] [in Damascus] has been postponed until next October for lack of quorum.

## Islamic Affairs

### Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 11 Apr

*NC1704101095*

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 11 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

**CONTENTS:**

1. Public Discouraged From Changing Evil by Own Hand
2. Article Discusses Nuclear Issue, 'Chosen People'

#### PUBLIC DISCOURAGED FROM CHANGING EVIL BY OWN HAND

A 1,500-word unattributed report on page 3 recounts a seminar that discussed corruption in society. It was organized by the 'AQIDATI convoy of ulema, which tours the country to encourage sound Islamic concepts and behavior. The seminar was held at the Damanhur's College of Shari'ah and Law and was attended by faculty members and students and by 'AQIDATI Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al- Ra'uf in addition to the scholars comprising the convoy.

Among the speakers were 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and Dr. Hamid Isma'il, professor of comparative jurisprudence at al-Mansurah's College of Islamic and Arabic Studies, an al-Azhar affiliate. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf advocated good example and advice as ways of combating corruption. Isma'il pointed out that many people misunderstand the prophet's saying: "He who sees evil let him change it with his hand. If he cannot do that, then let him change it with his tongue, and if he cannot, then with his heart and this is the feeblest form of faith." He adds that changing evil is the "responsibility of the rulers to whom God has given power and the means of deterrence." He explains that the ulema should be those who change evil with their tongue, while the general population should fight corruption by setting a good example.

#### ARTICLE DISCUSSES NUCLEAR ISSUE, 'CHOSEN PEOPLE'

A 500-word article by Majdi Salim on page 8 headlined "The Nuclear Treaty and the Chosen People" says that the major powers' offer of guarantees to non-nuclear countries, made through the UN Security Council, is "laughable." The writer suggests that the Security Council, which, he says, failed in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, cannot be expected to act effectively if a non-nuclear country is subjected to a nuclear threat.

The writer asks if the Security Council will act against one of its nuclear-capable permanent members if one of them issues a nuclear threat and wonders how it can do that when each of these members has the power to veto any resolution against itself.

He also doubts whether the Security Council will take action against a nuclear country that is not an official member of the nuclear club, like Israel or India. He says: "The answer to this question is also no, particularly where Israel is concerned, because it is the pampered baby of the United States in particular and of the West in general."

He continues: "This is proven by the hundreds of resolutions the Security Council adopted but failed to implement, and perhaps did not even want to implement, because those resolutions favored Arab and Islamic rights."

He says that Egypt must resist the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unless Israel joins it, allows international inspection of its nuclear installations, and also destroys the weapons it already has.

He adds that even if all this happens, it will not be a sufficient guarantee, because Israel does not respect the agreements it signs and when it behaves like this, it always finds supporters in the United States and Europe.

He concludes by declaring that the Israelis feel they have the right to do anything "anywhere, anytime on the grounds that they are God's chosen people."

## Palestinian Affairs

### Al-Quds Radio Reports Oklahoma Blast, Casualties

*JN2004110495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0950 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] It was officially announced in the United States today that the initial death toll of the explosion in a government building in Oklahoma City yesterday has risen to 31. The earlier toll put the number at 26. Rescue teams reported 200 injuries, including 58 critical cases.

AFP cited U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno as saying today that the number of people missing in the explosion may rise to 300 out of the 500 who were in the nine-story building. The U.S. CBS television network cited a number of experts who arrived [at the scene] from all parts of the United States as saying the number of dead may rise to 200. The Oklahoma mayor said the explosion made a 10-meter-wide and 2.5-meter-deep crater. The explosion, most likely caused by a booby-trapped car as news agencies said, is considered the most violent explosion witnessed by the United States for 75 years. [Al-Quds radio is operated by Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. It supports Syrian, Iranian, and Libyan policies, and advocates armed struggle against Israel]

### Hamas, Islamic Jihad Deny Involvement

*TA2004092195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0910 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad in Gaza have denied any involvement in the bombing in Oklahoma City. A leader of Hamas said that his organization only operates against the Israeli occupation. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports:

[Zaqen] People in the Gaza Strip were not happy to hear this morning about the association created between the bombing in Oklahoma City and the suicide attacks against Israel carried out by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Shaykh Abu-Musamih, a leader of Hamas, expressed his objections to the lethal bombing. According to him, there is no conflict or hostility between Hamas and the American people or to other peoples around the world, except for the Israeli occupation. Our organization's sphere of action, Abu-Musamih said, is the occupied territories and our enemies are the occupation forces.

Islamic Jihad did not object to the bombing itself, but a senior member told sources in Gaza that Islamic Jihad had no relation to the blast in the United States.

Official spokesmen of the Palestinian Authority have not yet reacted to the bombing itself and to the speculations in its aftermath.

### 'Arafat Sends Cable of Condolences

*JN2004091795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat this morning sent a cable of condolences to U.S. President Clinton offering his sincere condolences on the victims of the Oklahoma explosion.

### 'Arafat Receives U.S. Charge D'affaires

*JN1904183695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received the U.S. charge d'affaires this afternoon. They discussed the latest developments in the peace process. President Yasir 'Arafat asked the U.S. official to relay a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton. The content of the message was not revealed.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat also received (Mohamed El Ajnaf), the Tunisian Government's representative to the National Authority, who presented his credentials to President Yasir 'Arafat.

### Official on Dialogue With Hamas, Islamic Jihad

*JN1904154995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Telephone interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Fatah Central Committee member and PA secretary general of the Presidency, in Gaza by Yusuf al-Qazzaz in the studio; date not given—live or recorded]

[ FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Qazzaz] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, good evening.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Good evening, brother Yusuf.

[Al-Qazzaz] What about your supervision, or rather leading, of a dialogue between the PA [Palestinian Authority]—or Fatah, please clarify—and some representatives of the Palestinian opposition?

['Abd-al-Rahim] In fact Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, Salah al-Qudwah, and myself have for some time been holding a dialogue with brothers from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. The dialogue has started thanks to good efforts from both sides. The dialogue aims at ensuring respect for PLO commitments. In other words, the PLO has concluded an agreement—a peace of the brave agreement represented by the Declaration of Principles or the Oslo agreement—with the Israeli Government. This agreement requires that the Israeli Government implement it. It requires us to do certain things too so as not to give Israel any grounds for saying that the Palestinians are not honoring their agreements. This dialogue with the brothers in Hamas and the Islamic Jihad will continue. I believe that it is very fruitful dialogue. The PA's view is that the opposition parties should respect the agreements signed by the PLO and implemented by the PA. For its part, the PA respects the opposition forces' views about those agreements. As we always say, the freedom of expression is guaranteed for all, provided that it is exercised responsibly and away from slander, charges, abuses, and instigations. The freedom of expression is guaranteed, but everyone must be bound by those agreements. Some say: Let the authority negotiate and let the opposition fight. This could have been true during the negotiations in Washington or Oslo. But since agreements have been signed, everyone must respect the agreements signed by the PLO in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

There is a great understanding by the armed opposition forces. There is an understanding of the authority's position that there is no authority on the Palestinian soil but the PA, which refers to the PLO. I hear military brothers on your esteemed radio voicing their views about the licensing of weapons, the licenses that have been granted to citizens, and the types of licensed weapons. Such measures are carried out by the security forces. The authority urges everyone to respect the fact that there is only one authority. Otherwise, the fate of our Palestinian experience and Palestinian newborn will be uncertain. We do not accept—nor do our Palestinian people with all their forces inside or outside the framework of the PLO accept—Lebanonization, Afghanization, Somalization, or anything like that. We are careful to arrive at agreements through democratic means. Such agreements do respect the opposition's right to the freedom of expression. At the same time, they also respect the commitments of the PA and the PLO. [passage omitted]

## Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi on Conflict With 'Arafat

*JN1904162595 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 17-23 Apr 95 pp 12-13*

[Interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, by Faysal Jallul "on the sidelines of the Islamic Arab Popular Conference" in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jallul] How do you view the situation in the self-rule areas now that more than a year has passed since President Yasir 'Arafat assumed power there?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The situation in the self-rule areas is characterized by the Palestinian people's bitter frustration caused by the present authority. As you know, the promises of the donor states have not been fulfilled and the economic situation in the Gaza Strip is suffering from unprecedented difficulties. Some of the money extended, especially after the 18 November massacre last year, was spent on boosting the security and police corps. No attention is being given to vital projects to ease unemployment and improve the economy. Some donor states insisted that roads should be built, and this is perhaps the only thing that was carried out. Otherwise, no steps were taken in other directions. Briefly speaking, Yasir 'Arafat is using all the money he gets to build a superior repressive body.

[Jallul] Is President Yasir 'Arafat not entitled to build a police corps prior to the establishment of a state, according to his logic?

[Al-Shaqaqi] According to the logic of tyrants, yes this is possible. However, if he rules justly, he will be safe, especially since the Palestinian people do not wish any internal friction. Neither the people nor the Palestinian factions and national groups wish such friction. Therefore, he should not be afraid. Moreover, he does not have any real power that tempts us to pounce on it. Even if this power is presented to us on a silver platter, we will reject it. 'Arafat's concentration on security is a serious issue because the Islamic forces are determined to continue to fight against occupation. He wants to play the role assigned to him, that is, to maintain the Zionist entity's security, especially since he received American, Israeli, and other promises that his authority in the West Bank hinges on the extent of his fight against the Islamists in the Gaza Strip.

Yasir 'Arafat imagines that by striking at the Islamists he can get the West Bank. By striking at the Islamists, he cannot liquidate them. Moreover, Yitzhaq Rabin will not hand him any of the West Bank following the jihad operations, especially since Rabin will be involved in next year's elections and he does not want to lose for the sake of 'Arafat.

I think Rabin will not abandon the Likud plan before the next elections. He wants to enter the elections with a program similar to the Likud program so that others will not outbid him. This is Rabin's plan in his competition with the Likud. Therefore, 'Arafat should not dream of real power in the West Bank in return for his strike at the Islamists. I think that Yasir 'Arafat's concentration on building a repressive machine and giving this matter priority is an another mistake, to be added to his historic mistakes, and this may be his last one.

[Jallul] Let us continue to talk about President Yasir 'Arafat's logic. He has one option, which is controlling the situation in Gaza and Jericho in return for an Israeli commitment to give him the rest of the West Bank if he fulfills his pledge. Do you not think 'Arafat's logic can be justified?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We are against any justification of the entire Oslo plan. We believe it was a personal choice by Yasir 'Arafat rather than a choice by Fatah, the Palestinian national movement, or the Palestinian people. Had these been allowed to frankly express their opinion about the agreement, they would have rejected it. Therefore, I consider it 'Arafat's personal choice. A handful of Palestinians historically isolated by the Palestinian people helped cook up this agreement. They have no direct role in the Palestinian people's struggle and it is well known that most of them regularly receive bribes from Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat wanted to set foot on Palestinian territory regardless of the conditions entailed. That is why his option is not a national one. He signed a two-phase agreement, the first phase of which is ambiguous, whereas the second is open to all possibilities. Hence, he has squandered the gains made by the Palestinian people in the course of their struggle over the decades. He has also undermined the sacredness of a critical Arab and Islamic cause that effortlessly captured the imagination and enjoyed the support of the masses. He has squandered all this in return for something that is ambiguous and featureless. This is implausible in politics. It has never happened in the history of revolutions. I believe that one of the reasons that prompted Yasir 'Arafat to sign the agreement with Israel is that the fight was continuing and that the momentum of struggle had not been exhausted. He was afraid that the fight might continue, and that the banner would be upheld by new forces that could reap the fruits of struggle instead of him after 25 years of protracted strife. He wanted to reap the fruits even if they were bitter, as manifested in his endorsement of the Oslo accord.

To address your question directly, I would like to say that the Oslo accord stipulates that Israeli security will be an Israeli responsibility. Yasir 'Arafat was not granted jurisdiction over Israelis in the self-rule areas so that he may be denied the responsibility for security there.

The Israelis said that they are responsible for the security of settlements. Why then do they want him to take this responsibility? The Israelis have tasted resistance to their occupation since 1967. This resistance was always promoted; it never subsided. They have set up security organs that are the most well-equipped and efficient in the world. These organs work around the clock. They have modern equipment, a large number of collaborators, and exceptional resources. In spite of all this, they have failed to neutralize the resistance. How then can they expect 'Arafat to do so, given his limited resources? Consequently, 'Arafat must tell the Israelis that it is unfair for them to ask him to achieve this objective. He must address them, saying: Even though I may not be loath to do this job, I am not well-equipped to do it, given my limited resources. I believe that 'Arafat wants to deal a blow to the Islamic movement without acting under Israeli pressure. His scenario in this regard is different from Israel's. He wants to appease the Americans and Israelis, who want the crackdown on the Islamic movement to be expedited, because they believe that this movement wields influence outside Palestine.

If we were to get into 'Arafat's heart of hearts, we would learn that he wants to be given the best chance to crack down on the Islamic movement. That is, he wants to build an economy, develop his institutions, penetrate the Islamic movement, and tear it apart from within instead of waging an uncalculated adventure against it. This is how his mind works. Nonetheless, the daily pressures under which he comes are pushing him to realize the wishes of the Israelis and the U.S. Administration.

[Jallul] What is the number of persons held in the self-rule authority's jails?

[Al-Shaqaqi] So far, the number of persons held in the authority's jails can be broken down as follows: 50 Islamic Jihad members, some 20 Hamas members, and 30 members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. These people have been held for a very long time, compared with previous jail terms. In the aftermath of previous operations, 'Arafat's authority imprisoned resistance men. However, they were released gradually over one or two weeks. The protracted detentions acquire special significance this time, particularly since those jailed have nothing to do with military operations. They are religious scholars, shaykhs, politicians, or supporters. 'Arafat cannot identify the elements that plan and carry out military operations. That is why he detains these people to apply pressure on their factions. The method 'Arafat pursues in this regard is different from the one pursued by the Zionist enemy. The latter pursued the attackers, whereas 'Arafat imprisons key political rather than military figures. This is because he is incapable of penetrating the military resistance.

Jihad prisoners stayed the longest time in jail. Since the Bet Lid operation, they have remained in jail. In the beginning, we demonstrated patience. We did not issue a statement because of the mediation efforts made. Nonetheless, we issued a statement later to protest the detentions. In the statement, we accused 'Arafat of promoting Israeli interests. This statement elicited the arrest of 15 other Jihad figures. The arrests have continued up to date.

[Jallul] Have prisoners come under physical pressure? Or are they just held in jail?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The information we have is that Islamic Jihad prisoners have not suffered exceptional torture. Nonetheless, some brothers, such as Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, who is the most prominent prisoner, are held in solitary confinement. Some youths were randomly beaten. However, 'Arafat's aides said that this was not a deliberate move. Thus far, there is no systematic torture similar to that perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities.

[Jallul] What is your assessment of the balance of power between you and him?

[Al-Shaqaqi] When Yasir 'Arafat entered the Gaza Strip less than a year ago, he was received by about 50,000 people out of 900,000. After the massacre of 18 November 1994, he succeeded in sending a few thousand into the streets to demonstrate even though Fatah Movement resumed its support of him. He used the police and employed pressure on schoolmasters in order to send the students into the streets. In spite of his efforts, only a few thousand demonstrated in support of him after the massacre. During his second and most recent visit to Jericho, it was thought that the people of the West Bank would rush out to receive him. In fact, only 2,000 people received him during this visit, that is the same as the number of policemen in the city.

'Arafat feels comfortable in Gaza for two reasons: The first is the result of his advanced repressive machine, and the second is because we do not want to confront him. However, be sure that he is losing daily on the popular level, especially since those who came with him from abroad have carried out acts such as usurping lands and taking hostages. Those who came from abroad do not care about the suffering of the people. They get the best apartments and equip them with the best furniture while the people look on with astonishment. 'Arafat depends on corrupt and weak elements who easily respond to his pressure.

The final point I want to mention is that there is no authority in Gaza, there is only one man, and that is Yasir 'Arafat. If he goes to Cairo or Rome, the officials will say that during his absence we do not meet any demands, and no answer is given before the president's return, even if the subject deals with a small bill.

[Jallul] Do you support the holding of elections in the occupied territories?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We are against the Oslo plan and its results. Therefore, we reject elections that are held on the basis of that plan. If the elections are held outside the framework of this plan and if the Palestinian people everywhere take part to choose their leadership and the program of this leadership, then we would not oppose participation in such elections. We are going to oppose elections held on the basis of the Oslo agreement even if they become a fait accompli.

[Jallul] Why don't you follow the Algerian example? The Islamists there participated in the elections even though they reject the authority. They seized the chance to measure their strength and the strength of their opponents.

[Al-Shaqaqi] The situation is different. We are ready to participate in elections in which the Palestinian people have their say on the Oslo agreement and whether they accept or reject that agreement. In this way, the strength or weakness of the representation of the Palestinian people can be measured. But to say that the Oslo agreement has been imposed on you by force and you have to elect an administration to implement that agreement is something we reject.

[Jallul] Let us presume that the elections were conducted, that President 'Arafat managed to form an elected council, and that he relied on an elected authority. Don't you think that this would weaken you in front of public opinion?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I do not expect Palestinian elections before the Israeli elections. This is because I do not expect Israeli withdrawals before this date. Yasir 'Arafat seeks to establish a legitimate authority against the Palestinian Islamic and nationalist movement. This is why he seeks to hold elections which would reinforce his position as a leader. He knows that the Islamists will boycott such elections.

[Jallul] Aren't you deliberately facilitating his mission by boycotting the elections?

[Al-Shaqaqi] As I said before, we reject the original agreement and consider it null and void. Consequently, the election or nonelection of 'Arafat will also be null and void. I expect that the majority of the Palestinian people will boycott such elections.

[Jallul] Can we understand from this that you are trying to see how strong you are by boycotting the elections and not by participating in them?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We can see how strong we are through our jihad, through rejecting the agreement, fighting the enemy, and boycotting the elections.

[Jallul] Do you have any specific assessment of the size of your force and that of President 'Arafat?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Polls show that 40-50 percent of the people support Yasir 'Arafat. However, these polls are false because they are issued by an institution which belongs to him. As for us, I cannot give exact figures, but I believe that the opponents to the regime constitute the majority, and they are 50 percent of the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

[Jallul] Have you discussed with him the dangers of the outbreak of a civil war and the need to avert such a war?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Political dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat is out of the question. When we say this we proceed from the complete difference between our programs. There will be no reconciliation between the two programs.

[Jallul] This is despite the fact that he is also an enemy of Israel?

[Al-Shaqaqi] He is no longer an enemy of Israel. If you tell him this, he will sue you. However, sometimes, we do not prevent our brothers from holding meetings to prevent an explosion on the ground, and to discuss field issues to avoid any internecine fighting. We meet to discuss practical and field issues, but we do not meet with him to reach political formulas.

### Islamic Jihad Tehran Representative on 'Zionist' Regime

*NC1804194695 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Apr 95 p 12*

[Article by Islamic Jihad of Palestine representative in Tehran Muhammad Abu Jihad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Right from the outset of their aggression against the homeland of Palestine the Zionists strove toward one basic objective: the acceptance of the Zionist regime as a regional power in the Middle East that had acquired arms and material resources that allowed the Zionist enemy to become such a power.

The recent conference in Cairo (12 February 1995) provided the basis for the stability of the Zionist regime so that the coveted aspirations of the Zionists could be discussed, which is an example of Israel's emergence as a force in the "Arab region."

In the aftermath of the conference, many governments opened their classified dossiers for their Israeli friend and relations and contacts were warmly forged between these governments and the despotic Zionist Armed Forces even more than with those Arab governments that had common historical and religious bonds. [passage omitted]

When the issue of terrorism is raised we do not see anyone more bloodthirsty and terrorist than the Zionist regime and the United States, who are unsurpassed in their terroristic actions. The Zionist regime has been spawned on the basis of murder, aggression, and the massacre of the Palestinian people and regional nations. Hundreds of cases of terrorist operations by the Zionist regime have taken place inside and outside Palestine, which is testimony to the veracity of this statement. [passage omitted]

Last month the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was collectively rejected by the Zionists on the imaginary basis of an Islamic atomic bomb and Islamist principled [euphemistic term for fundamentalist] terrorism.

Ostensibly the United States was behind this propagandist Zionist attack with all its being. Recently, the U.S. defense secretary sent a letter to NATO on the danger of "extremist Islam," even though the Zionist regime has mustered all its efforts to retain its nuclear arsenal. [passage omitted]

The Zionist regime persists in its brutal existence beleaguered by the martyrdom-seeking operations that continue against it, such as the one in Netanya, which destroyed all the security posts and areas of the Zionist regime by attacking it from within and made it tremble so that this aggressor regime would face new crises.

## Hamas Official on Relations With Egypt, PA

*JN1904153095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Telephone interview with Shaykh al-Sayyid Abu-Musamih, "a prominent leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the Gaza Strip" in Gaza, by Yasir 'Atilah in the studio on 19 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] A [Hamas] delegation recently met with Mahmud Karim, representative of the Egyptian Government to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Who initiated this meeting?

[Abu-Musamih] There was a mutual desire for such a meeting.

['Atilah] Who attended this meeting, beside yourself?

[Abu-Musamih] Myself, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, and Mr. Abu-Shammalah.

['Atilah] Is this meeting another step on the way to effecting reconciliation between Hamas and the PA?

[Abu-Musamih] It is not like that. This is part of the nature of our relations. There was only talk and an exchange of views.

['Atilah] Have you reached decisions or recommendations?

[Abu-Musamih] It was just a conversation, introductions; just an exchange of views.

['Atilah] We are aware of the nature of relations between the Egyptian Government and the Islamic movements in Egypt. Now the representative of the Egyptian Government meets you in an attempt to bridge the gap between you and the PA. How do you explain this?

[Abu-Musamih] As I have told you, our discussion did not go beyond an exchange of views. We did not discuss issues of intervention or anything of this kind—only an exchange of views between the two sides. As for Egypt and what goes on inside Egypt, our aim is one; namely, taking care of our cause and resisting the occupation. We do not interfere in Egyptian internal affairs. This is the right of the Egyptian people and government.

['Atilah] How would you describe your position in regard to the PA?

[Abu-Musamih] The situation is tense. At midnight last night, several arrests of Islamic Movement were made. The situation is still tense.

## Hamas Statement Warns Authority Against Disarmament

*NC1904164995 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, April 19 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas renewed Wednesday [19 April] warnings to the Palestinian Authority not to attempt to disarm Muslim militants in a strongly worded statement.

"We warn anyone from approaching the guns of our group following the treacherous decision which calls for our fighters to be disarmed," said Hamas armed wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam.

The Palestinian Authority vowed on April 11, two days after Moslem suicide bombers killed eight people, to disarm Islamic militants. Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn gave the hardliners one month to lay down their weapons.

'Arafat has called for a halt to anti-Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip and urged the opponents of the self-rule accord to respect his agreement with Israel.

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam said in the leaflet sent to AFP in Jerusalem: "We will not bargain or negotiate away our guns for anybody.

"Our fighter's guns will still be raised high and aimed at the hearts of the enemies of God."

Representatives of the authority have recently met Hamas officials in a bid to ease tensions.

Gaza police arrested more than 200 activists after the suicide bombings. About 90 have since been released.

### Gaza Factions Form Committee To Settle Crisis

*TA2004114595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Efforts continue to settle the crisis between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the terrorist organizations. Last night, representatives of all the Palestinian factions in Gaza decided to set up a joint committee to discuss the security situation in the autonomous areas. A representative of Islamic Jihad attended the meeting for the first time since contacts began to allay the tensions in the aftermath of the twin attacks near Kefar Darom. Our correspondent Hanan Schlein reports:

[Schlein] Another meeting held between representatives of the PA and the opposition in a bid to allay the tensions between them ended at around midnight last night. For the first time, an Islamic Jihad representative attended the meeting, which was held at the home of 'Abdallah Hurani, a member of the PLO Executive Committee. Other participants were members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose leaders in the Gaza Strip who were arrested by the Palestinian Police after the attack near Nahal 'Oz, were released from prison only a few days ago.

It was actually another meeting of the political leaders. They did not reach any real accord, but decided to set up a special committee which will try to allay the tensions and attain agreements between the PA, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Islamic Jihad. It was decided that Hurani himself, who is seen as politically independent, will oversee the contacts for the establishment of the six-man committee.

Hamas announced yesterday that it will not comply with the PA's demands to accept the Oslo accords and to halt the terror attacks against Israel from within the boundaries of the autonomy. Palestinian sources noted that through these contacts Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists hoped to bring about the release of their members from prison and the abolishment of the sentences issued by the military court in Gaza.

Hamas members announced in yesterday's meeting that they would not agree that the man in charge of the aforementioned court—the PA's Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn—be a member of the six-man committee. Hurani himself scored points with the Islamic fundamentalists when a week ago he turned down the PA's demand to stop the terror attacks against Israel from within the boundaries of the autonomy.

### 'Abd-Rabbuh: Talks With Jordan Suspended

*TA1904171095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah has stated that Jordan will not allow opponents of the Palestinian Authority to carry out any activities on its territory.

In another development, talks between Jordanian officials and a Palestinian delegation headed by Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh were suspended after the negotiators failed to reach agreements on cooperation in various fields. Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said the talks will be resumed in two weeks and expressed the hope that the obstacles will be overcome through joint efforts.

## Algeria

### Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Arrives in I-N-Amenas

#### Says Visit To Strengthen Ties

*LD1904185095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I-N-Amenas, 19 Apr—The brother leader of the revolution arrived this evening in I-N-Amenas town in Algeria on a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria. The brother leader of the revolution was accorded a grand official welcome. Algerian State President Liamine Zeroual was at the forefront of those who welcomed the brother leader. [passage omitted]

The brother leader made a statement to newsmen in which he expressed his joy to be on Algerian soil, and he stressed that the visit comes as part of strengthening fraternal relations and part of the constant consultation between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

#### Meets With President Zeroual

*LD1904194895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Algerian-Libyan summit's first round of political talks, hosted by the city of I-N-Amenas, started this evening by a private meeting between President Liamine Zeroual and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, on condition that they extend to include the two countries' delegations. More details are with the radio correspondent in I-N-Amenas Moukhtar Maher:

[Maher] An important ministerial delegation from the Algerian side—consisting of the ministers of foreign affairs, the interior and local authorities, finance, industry and energy, equipment and urban planning, health and population, labor and social security, posts and telecommunications, as well as the political adviser and the presidency's spokesman, and the secretary of state for Maghreban affairs and cooperation—is taking part in this first round. From the Libyan side the secretaries of the General People's Committees for foreign affairs and cooperation, justice and public security, unity, communications, maritime resources, and energy are taking part, in addition to the ambassadors of the two countries, and the ambassadors of the other countries of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The first political talks of the Algerian-Libyan summit are taking place at this moment in closed session. According to sources and observers, it is believed that the talks between the two countries' delegations include numerous fields—health, transport, oil and hydrocarbons, finance, infrastructure installations, and the means to include bilateral relations in the Maghreban house. Other issues will also be dealt with, among which are the Libyan-Western crisis, the building of the Arab Maghreb with rationality, the means for building the status of the Arab Maghreb in the Arab World, the removal of everything which impedes the development of relations between Arab countries, reconciliation, and the peace process.

The position of the Arab Maghreb within the framework of the new world order will also be dealt with, as well as coordination in the sphere of foreign policy.

A document is expected to emerge from this summit which would form the general framework for bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Libya, which has witnessed tangible development in numerous spheres, including the health sector. [passage omitted]

It remains to note that the Algerian-Libyan summit will continue tomorrow, Thursday, by holding another round of talks, and will be crowned with a joint final statement.

#### Holds 2d Round of Talks

*LD2004104495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The second round of talks between President Liamine Zeroual and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, began this morning at the town of I-N-Amenas and are scheduled to be extended later to include the delegations of the two countries.

The Algerian-Libyan summit, which is entering its second and last day, is expected to end with a document reflecting the ideal framework for bilateral cooperation.

### Agreement Reached With Saudi Arabia To Reschedule Debts

*LD1804203495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An agreement was signed yesterday in Riyadh between Algeria and Saudi Arabia for the rescheduling of $500 million of Algerian debts. The agreement was signed by Abdelkader Belgarbi, deputy governor of the Algerian Central Bank, for the Algerian side, and by Hamid al-Sayyari, governor of the Saudi Central Bank, for the Saudi side. [passage omitted]

### Al-Nahdah Leader Comments on Talks With Zeroual

*MM1904195395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Apr 95 p 6*

[Interview with Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, by Nadyah Muhdayd in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Muhdayd] How did your party participate in the bilateral consultations with President Zeroual over the presidential elections?

[Djaballah] The participation took place in response to a decision by the national bureau, which studied the presidency's invitation, which broached the presidential elections issue and the issue of containing the cycle of violence. We prepared a letter which included new proposals derived from the national covenant and the movement's memorandums. We made these proposals our basis during our meeting with the president. We did not restrict ourselves to the presidential elections issue, because we believe that these elections are part of the solution and their effectiveness depends on securing the right conditions for them so that they would win the people's and the international community's confidence.

[Muhdayd] What was the content of the document your party submitted to President Zeroual?

[Djaballah] The document we submitted to the president during our meeting with him on 9 April 1995 included gradual and balanced proposals for the crisis Algeria is experiencing, with a view to achieving national reconciliation. And it included, among other things: working to establish a democratic, sovereign Algerian state within the framework of Islamic principles, the Constitution, the principle of power rotation through general elections, Islamic law, individual and collective freedom, the nonuse of violence to reach or remain in power, rejection of all forms of dictatorship, and respect for all human rights as stipulated in international charters.

[Muhdayd] What was the extent of the state's willingness to hold a dialogue?

[Djaballah] The head of state insisted on holding the presidential elections to resolve the crisis and tackle so-called violence phenomenon. But we insisted that this policy is futile, taking account of its failure and very bad effects at the security, political, economic, and social levels. Since it was the first meeting after the estrangement experienced in political relations between the authorities and the opposition, either party was eager to explain its position. So it is difficult to make a judgment on this round of dialogue from the first meeting. What can be said is that the president promised to study the movement's [proposals] and to organize another meeting to discuss them.

[Muhdayd] Did you sense progress in the state's position vis- a-vis engaging in a comprehensive dialogue with all the parties, including the Salvation Front?

[Djaballah] The authorities' position toward the Front has not changed yet. And our position on the need to include it in the dialogue is still fixed. And the proposals we submitted are based on the Front's inclusion in the dialogue in order to contribute to resolving the crisis.

[Muhdayd] Can you explain why there is disagreement between al-Nahdah's position and that of the Rome covenant parties with regard to the bilateral meetings with the presidency?

[Djaballah] There is no disagreement among the parties to the national covenant. It was agreed that each party is free to adopt its own position, provided it does not deviate from the national covenant's content. That is what we tried to do.

[Muhdayd] Is there coordination among the Rome covenant parties, especially as numerous observers believe they lack a unified strategy different from what already exists on the Algerian scene?

[Djaballah] Coordination among the national covenant parties has not been interrupted. And their proposal won the approval of both the Algerian people and the international community. And their document was considered a historic document of special importance because of those who signed it and because of the objective, gradual, and balanced proposals contained in it—proposals capable of securing a comprehensive and just political solution to the Algerian crisis.

[Muhdayd] And what is your opinion of the National Liberation Front's proposal to issue a joint appeal to all the parties to suspend the use of arms for unspecified period?

[Djaballah] The head of state requested that from the parties at the meetings held in the summer of 1994. But the parties rejected that request on the grounds of its futility. The movement was among those who rejected the request, and we continue to adhere to our position, unless conditions change. The appeal was a step toward a solution.

[Muhdayd] Is the preparation for the national conference in Algeria still stands, or have the parties to the covenant abandoned the idea?

[Djaballah] The belief in it still exists. And the efforts to bring the national conference idea to fruition, the steps to hold it, and the endeavors to iron out the obstacles still stand.

[Muhdayd] A new group of parties joined the national accord foundation recently. Does that mean that the opposition in Algeria has entered the stage of uniting the ranks to resolve the political crisis the country is experiencing?

[Djaballah] That is a hope which we aspire to achieve. It might be achieved through the national conference we are seeking to hold.

[Muhdayd] Is al-Nahdah willing to take part in the elections?

[Djaballah] The movement submitted reconciliation proposals at its meeting with the president. They included the presidential elections, which, in our view, are a step which should be embarked on when the objective conditions are secured. These include free, fair, and pluralistic elections whose results win the approval of the people and the international community.

[Muhdayd] You helped in the past to bring views closer between the regime and the Islamic Salvation Front. Are similar efforts being made?

[Djaballah] Indeed that happened in the fall of 1994. But the endeavors were suspended for reasons which could be revealed in the future, God willing. There are no similar efforts at present.

[Muhdayd] In view of the contacts between you and the Salvation Front's leaders, have you visited Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj recently?

[Djaballah] No one knows where they are. And we do not approve of the separation measure taken against them.

[Muhdayd] Would your party accept the Salvation Front's participation in the framework of pluralism, that is, through the elections, or do you believe that the possibility of that party's reaching power by force on the cards?

[Djaballah] The national covenant stipulated openly the need to legally rehabilitate the Islamic Salvation Front to enable it to should its responsibilities vis-a-vis resolving the crisis and securing the objective conditions capable of organizing free, fair, and pluralist elections in which all the parties, including the Salvation Front, participate. Then the people have the right to settle the competition over power through the elections. As for our position on the use of force to reach power, the national covenant accord stipulated the rejection of force as a means to reach or remain in power because we believe that the people are the source of political power. They are entitled to choose their rulers and representatives and to watch, judge, and dismiss them when necessary. We believe that this is a fundamental condition for stabilizing the conditions.

[Muhdayd] How do you explain the abduction and slaughter of scores of Algerian women and children?

[Djaballah] Like the other parties, we expressed our position, rejecting such practices, which are clear violations of religion and moral values in Algerian society. It is worth noting that the killing is not aimed against a particular group in society because of its race or ideological or political orientations, but, rather, against all groups in society, regardless of their political and ideological or political orientations and partisan affiliations from the two sexes (males and females) and from all groups of society. For example, a member of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement was killed and so were independent imams. [Djaballah ends]

Shaykh Djaballah attributed this behavior to numerous factors, including "the absence of the concept of the state as a political and institutional structure whose task is to work to organize the forces in society, and also to the ignorance of the religion of Almighty God and to moral corruption."

### Zeroual Open To 'Constructive Proposal' To End Crisis

*LD1804175395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement released today, President Liamine Zeroual urged all those who really believe in the advantages of dialogue to revise their positions and to be realistic. This came in a call addressed basically to the four political parties that want a dialogue without exclusion [of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS]. The statement points out that President Zeroual has brought back to mind that the state has been making efforts to see the officials of the dissolved party [FIS] adopt a constructive measure so as to be able to participate in the dialogue and arrive at a comprehensive solution to the crisis.

Addressing the political parties in question, the state president said: While sticking to my wish to organize presidential elections before the end of this year, I reaffirm to you that the door of the presidency remains open to any constructive proposal liable to hasten the ending of violence and quickly ensure a definitive settlement of the national crisis. On the other hand, the state president reminded the political parties and the organizations which he received during the latest round of dialogue that no official of any political party can claim that he was denied the freedom of expression or political activity. In the same statement, the state president also reminded the National Liberation Front party of the request he has made to the Transitional National Council asking it to extend the latter's mandate for six months and to hold presidential elections. President Zeroual also reminded the participants in the third round of the national dialogue of this position of his.

### Urges Parties To 'Display Realism'

*LD1904154595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The state presidency has issued further details concerning four political parties—the FLN [National Liberation Front], the FFS [Socialist Forces Front], the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria], and Ennahda, which are calling for a dialogue from which none are excluded. Liamine Zeroual is calling on them to reassess their position and to display realism. The state president says that these parties' insistence on the presence of all parties concerned at the table of dialogue without even a minimum number of conditions being laid down would amount either to helping to maintain the permanent deadlock or to opening the way to ventures which are even more risky for our country. What is at stake, President Zeroual said, is not the regime, whether one is for it or against it. What is at stake in this crisis is the whole of Algeria, the whole of the Algerian people, and no one can pretend to the people that they are neutral.

Addressing those who claim tutelage over the perpetrators of the violence, the state president calls on them to face up to their responsibilities. He urges them to approach the officials of the banned party [Islamic Salvation Front] themselves to persuade them to adopt a constructive position likely to contribute to an overall solution to the crisis. President Zeroual repeated once again that the doors to dialogue will remain open. He recalled his willingness to discuss any proposal made in conformity with the constant requirements of the rejection of violence, the changing of government by means of the ballot box, the national interest, and the rejection of foreign interference.

Another reminder given by the state president was of the continued need for the fight against terrorism, which attacks the people and the national heritage, a fight which is being carried out in strict observance of the law, he specified.

## Presidency Issues Third, Last Statement on Dialogue

*LD1904183595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidential elections will be a fundamental turn in a radical initiative to make a break [with the past], and to gradually tackle the problems facing the country. This confirmation is the state president's response to the concerns of the two political formations which doubt the possibility of organizing the presidential elections before the end of this year.

Concerning the security conditions and the freedom which will surround the presidential elections, the state president stressed that the authorities will adopt important and clear measures to guarantee the security of the electoral process. He added that this is the responsibility of the state which intends to mobilize all means to make the elections successful at all levels.

According to the presidency's statement, issued today, concerning the neutrality of the elections, President Zeroual recalled all the guarantees which it has been decided will be made available, including the resort to foreign observers, and the state's consent to the creation of an independent committee to monitor the elections.

Despite their doubtfulness, two political formations did not object to the holding of the presidential elections, and it was decided that they will remain in contact with the presidency.

In the third and last statement issued by the presidency on the bilateral talks, President Zeroual renewed his commitment to the success of the national dialogue as the preferable means to promote the final solution to the crisis. The state president stressed the need for this dialogue to be conceived and conducted in Algeria within the framework of well-known constants.

According to the same statement, the totality of the bilateral meetings with the 15 political parties and national organizations took place in a clear atmosphere, and in a very wide reciprocal and constructive mentality. The state president assured all his interlocutors who put forth proposals, that these will be examined carefully, and they will be the subject of definitive answers.

## Further on Latest Statement on Dialogue

*LD1904214495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidency today issued a third and latest statement which casts light on the attitude of two parties [unspecified] to the decision on the presidential elections, which are scheduled to be organized before this year. The two parties registered reservations to and cast doubts on the possiblity of organizing presidential elections before the end of this year.

The thoughts of one party can be summed up in the following points: The process of organizing the elections requires in addition to making available appropriate security conditions the exclusion of the phenomena of extremism and fundamentalism; the process of organizing the elections should not be a choice between two society projects, but should be a measure for bolstering and reinforcing democracy. This party is of the view that Islam should be excluded from the political usage while ensuring total boycott of the previous regime so as to restore confidence between the people and the state.

As for the second party and despite the fact that it does not object to the organizing of the elections, it remains doubtful about the possibility of holding these elections in view of the current security conditions. At the same time it registers its recognition of the efforts being made by the state to render successful the endeavor of holding the national dialogue, stressing the importance of carrying out a boycott of the former practices. On the other hand the officials of this party strongly opposed the attempts to internationalize the national crisis and proposed the holding of a national master conference to be called for by the state.

According to the point of view of this party this conference would be open to all parties including the officials of the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front], and should enjoy extensive media coverage that would enable public opinion to pass judgement on the attitudes of all sides.

Regarding the conditions for holding the elections, the state president presented assurances for guaranteeing the soundness of the election process by way of significant and specified measures to be taken by the authorities so as to provide appropriate climates. The state president in his reference to the freedom and transparency of the election recalled the possibility of resorting to international observers, and expressed his approval of the formation of an independent committee to monitor the election process.

With regard to the national dialogue, Mr. Liamine Zeroual stressed the commitment to the principle of dialogue as a means to solve the crisis, but this dialogue should be thought of and promoted in Algeria, proceeding from the rejection of violence and respecting the constitution and commitment to the specified constants.

The latest statement also contains final notes which the state president recorded following the meeting of consultation which he held with 15 parties and organizations. These notes can be summed up in the following: The decision to organize the presidential election enjoys extensive support. The support for the elections is reflected by a stance backing the revision of the law on elections which will be enriched on the basis of the suggestions made by the parties concerned by the consultation. The approval of additional guarantees to achieve the freedom and impartiality of elections is represented by the establishment of an independent committee to supervise the operation.

The state president's readiness to deepen the national dialogue and make it successful was noticed by the partners who were able to put forward and discuss all the issues. All the meetings took place in a calm atmosphere and with a constructive spirit. The state president reassured all the parties and associations who put forward suggestions that the latter will be carefully studied and replies will be given to them. At the same time, he called for vital participation leading to a national solution for the crisis. He also called on the parties which put forward suggestions to convey them to the political class so as to bring ideas and viewpoints closer between them.

## Security Forces Report Various Search Operations

### Kill 90 'Terrorists'

*LD1804194995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have announced that they killed 90 terrorists during various search operations carried out in different regions of the national territory. A significant number of weapons have been seized.

The security forces also announced that they killed the murderer of Boussouara Abdelhamid, a professor of literature, in Constantine on Sunday.

### Arrest 28 'Armed Criminals'

*LD1804195995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In another development, a statement by the security services says that their forces arrested 28 armed criminals during the search operations which they conducted in some provinces of the homeland.

### Kill 10 'Terrorists' in Cherarba

*LD1904193195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services have announced that they killed ten terrorists in Cherarba, southwest of Algiers early this morning. They also seized a number of weapons. The security services also announced that they have killed two terrorists near Tlemcen [western Algeria], and three others were killed on Monday near Boumerdes [east of Algiers].

## Sifi, Unions, Employers Discuss Social Contract

*LD1704150195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A tripartite meeting was opened at the government palace this morning. The meeting brings together the head of government, and representatives of the trade union [UGTA] and public and private sector employers. The agenda includes the draft social contract proposal, agreement on facilitating more extensive financing, and the draft privatization law. Here is Ratibah Ait Faili with the details.

[Faili] This morning's meeting was attended by Mokdad Sifi, the head of government and members of his government, [UGTA secretary general Abdelhak] Benhamouda and a number of his aides representing the union, and representatives of the Algerian Confederation of Employers.

In his opening address, Sifi said that today's meeting was within the framework of promoting consultation and dialogue among the three sides to bring closer their views and have a free discussion on the possibility of reaching a social contract as a means of repelling attempts to undermine political, economic, and social stability.

Regarding the draft privatization law, the head of government said that the issue was within the framework of restructuring the public economic sector, and that privatization indisputably assumed a strategic importance.

Regarding the state's role in this plan, Sifi said that the state would continue to organize the national economy, and that it will not interfere in the economic sectors allocated to individual and private initiatives.

Finally, Sifi recalled the difficult conditions in which these reforms were being carried out, and that the role of the government, with the assistance of its partners, included in particular the negative and positive effects of the reforms on citizens of all strata. The meeting between the three sides is continuing behind closed doors.

## 1994 Foreign Trade Exchanges Reported

*LD1704162895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A roundup of the size of foreign trade exchanges in 1994 and the first four months of 1995 was the subject of a news conference addressed by Brahim Chaieb, the director general of customs.

More details on the news conference in this dispatch by colleague Fdil Saadaddine:

[Saadaddine] Brahim Chaieb, the director general of customs, presented a roundup of the size of foreign trade exchanges in 1994 and the first four months of 1995.

Chaieb said that total imports in 1994 were estimated at $9.7 billion. It covered the following list of imports: Food, energy and fuels, raw materials, semi-manufactured materials, agricultural and industrial equipment, and consumer goods. The director general of customs said that the size of imports remained stable in the first four months of 1994 and 1995 when it reached $2.94 billion, including $278.7 million spent on consumer goods. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### Reportage on Travel for Libyan Pilgrims to Mecca

#### Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Travel

*NC1904180795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—MENA has learned that at noon today President Husni Mubarak telephoned Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, after the Libyan Jamahiriyah announced that a Libyan aircraft carrying Libyan pilgrims has taken off from Banghazi airport.

Immediately after the telephone call, Col. al-Qadhdhafi agreed to keep the Libyan pilgrims at Tobruk Airport while waiting for the UN to adopt a resolution allowing Egyptian planes to ferry the fraternal Libyan pilgrims to the Holy Land.

During the past two days, President Husni Mubarak and Col. al-Qadhdhafi had many telephone contacts to exchange viewpoints in this regard.

On the other hand, President Mubarak held many ranking international contacts today to find a solution enabling the Libyan pilgrims to travel by air to perform the pilgrimage.

President Mubarak was in constant contact with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is currently in New York, to follow the meetings of the Security Council's committee on sanctions against Libya.

MENA also learned that the Libyan pilgrims are expected to continue their journey to perform their pilgrimage rites within the next few hours on board Egyptian planes.

#### UN Approves Request for Transport

*NC1904155895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 19 Apr (MENA)—The sanctions committee of the Security Council has approved the request submitted by Egypt to allow Libyan pilgrims to be transported on board Egyptian planes.

The MENA correspondent in New York has learned that Egypt, in a letter to the chairman of the sanctions committee and the president of the Security Council, asked for permission to transport 6,000 Libyans to Saudi Arabia on Egypt Air planes to perform the hajj.

The Libyan pilgrims are expected to be transported to the holy territories on 25 flights from Tripoli.

The committee approved the Egyptian request.

#### Musa Praises UN Decision

*NC1904184695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, United Nations, 19 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed his satisfaction with the Security Council's positive response today to the request submitted by Egypt to ferry Libyan pilgrims on board Egyptian planes.

The foreign minister said it was natural for Egypt to cooperate with the brothers in Libya and the Security Council. There was complete understanding among all the sides, he said.

'Amr Musa said that this morning Egypt submitted a request to the sanctions committee of the Security Council to facilitate the pilgrimage for Libyans as part of arrangements and along lines agreed upon within the framework of the Security Council to deal with humanitarian and religious issues, including, naturally, the pilgrimage to the holy shrines. The sanctions committee approved Egypt's request to ferry the Libyan pilgrims.

Musa added that the pilgrims will be transported on board Egypt Air flights starting tomorrow.

#### Egypt Air Arranges Flights

*NC1904185295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Egypt Air will operate its first flight to transport Libyan pilgrims tomorrow morning, Thursday, from the Libyan airports of Banghazi and Tripoli to Jeddah airport in Saudi Arabia. The flights will be direct, with no stopovers en route. Stating this, Engineer Muhammad Fahim Rayyan, chairman of the board of directors of Egypt Air, added that the company will arrange 45 charter flights to transport the Libyan pilgrims, since the UN Security Council agreed today to assign the task of transporting Libyan pilgrims to Egypt Air aircraft. UN representatives will inspect the passengers and planes at Banghazi and Tripoli airports and notify the parties concerned about the route of the planes.

## More Details on Pilgrim Flight

*NC1904173695 Paris AFP in English 1603 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 19 (AFP)—A Libyan plane which took off Wednesday [19 April] from Tripoli with pilgrims to Mecca has landed in Tobruk, Libya without entering Egyptian airspace in defiance of a UN air embargo, a Libyan diplomatic source said.

An Egypt Air plane was to go to Tobruk to pick up the passengers, "in line with the decision by the sanctions committee of the United Nations," he explained.

The source said the Boeing 727 of the Libyan Arab Airlines had 159 passengers.

In New York, after the Boeing 727 took off, the UN sanctions committee authorised 45 Egypt Air flights between Libya and Saudi Arabia to allow 6,000 Libyan pilgrims to make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, known as the hajj.

The committee gave permission for flights beginning Wednesday from Libya to Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah near Mecca.

The president of Egypt Air, Fahim Rayan, said he was awaiting orders from Egyptian officials before making the necessary arrangements to transfer the Libyan pilgrims.

"The Egyptian planes have not yet taken off for Libya because we must first know if the UN will supervise the flights or not, as well as other details about the operation," he said.

"I am in contact with the foreign ministry. We will publish an official statement when we decide to send the planes," he added. [In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1612 GMT on 19 April states the following: "The airport of Egypt's Sinai town of al-'Arish will be used for international flights for the first time to transport Palestinian pilgrims to Mecca, the airport director Salah 'Abd-al- Na'im said Wednesday.

["'For the first time 28 round-trip flights are to leave Thursday for Palestinians coming from the Gaza Strip and West Bank to conduct the annual pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia,' known as the hajj, 'Abd-al-Na'im told AFP.

["'We have renovated the runways, enlarged the waiting facilities for passengers and modernized the airport equipment for the occasion,' he added.

["The airport of al-'Arish, 380 kilometers (210 miles) northwest of Cairo, has been used solely for domestic flights since it was reopened in 1982.

["Only PLO head Yasir 'Arafat has used it to fly abroad, particularly to Tunisia, since moving to the autonomous Gaza Strip in July 1994, 'Abd-al Na'im added.

["Egypt's military used the airport until Israel seized the Sinai in 1967. Israeli air force planes flew out of al-'Arish until 1979, three years before the whole of the Sinai was returned."]

## Egypt Air Postpones Flights

*NC2004070395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2313 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—MENA learned that it has been decided to postpone the operation of the Egypt Air flights scheduled to transport Libyan pilgrims early Thursday [20 April] morning to a date to be determined later.

An Egypt Air official has said that the date will be determined once the necessary arrangements have been made.

## Civil Aviation on Airspace Violation

*NC2004083395 Paris AFP in English 2138 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Report by Lee Keath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 19 (AFP)—Egypt's civil aviation authorities said no Libyan planes crossed the country's airspace on Wednesday [19 April] to carry Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

Libyan state television, meanwhile, reported that a Libyan plane landed in Jeddah, near the holy city of Mecca in western Saudi Arabia, in violation of a UN air embargo.

A Libyan diplomat in Cairo said the plane, carrying 150 pilgrims on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that is known as the hajj, left Tripoli and stopped at the city of Tobruq before flying on to Jeddah.

A second Libyan flight which arrived in Tobruq from Benghazi has also taken off for Jeddah, he added.

The diplomat could not say if the planes crossed Egyptian or Sudanese airspace, the two countries between Libya and Saudi Arabia. "Perhaps the Egyptians have let it go without saying anything," he said.

An official at the control tower of Cairo airport refused to comment. "My superiors have ordered me to say nothing to the press," he said.

The official Egyptian news agency MENA had reported that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi assured Egypt's President Husni Mubarak that the two planes would wait in Tobruq for Egyptian planes to arrive and take on the passengers.

The UN sanctions committee on Wednesday granted an exemption to the air embargo it imposed on Libya three years ago but only to allow Egypt Air planes to transport pilgrims from Tripoli and Benghazi to Saudi Arabia.

Egypt was Thursday to launch an air bridge for Libyan pilgrims flying to Mecca after the UN exemption.

"Egypt Air will sent its first flights Thursday to transport Libyan pilgrims from Tripoli and Benghazi directly to Jeddah without stopping," Egypt Air head Fahim Rayyan said.

Egypt's national carrier "will organize 45 flights to transport 6,000 Libyan pilgrims in concordance with the UN decision," Rayyan said.

The airline's chief added that UN inspectors would inspect the passengers and planes at the Libyan airports and confirm the planes' flight paths to Jeddah.

The exemption was granted after Egypt requested it "for humanitarian reasons." The United Nations imposed the air embargo in April 1992 as part of sanctions because of alleged Libyan links to the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing.

A committee of Egyptian experts was to accompany the first Egypt Air flight to Tripoli to evaluate the state of airport runways and make necessary preparations, a civil aviation source said.

## Officials: Libyan Plane Used Airspace

*NC2004084295 Paris AFP in English 0013 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, April 20 (AFP)—Egyptian civil aviation officials have confirmed that a single Libyan plane crossed Egyptian airspace on Wednesday [19 April] carrying pilgrims to Saudi Arabia in violation of a UN air embargo on Tripoli.

A civil aviation official who requested anonymity said "a single Libyan plane taking off from Tobruq (Libya) entered Egyptian air space on route to Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) where it landed."

"This is a violation of the United Nation exception to the embargo," he added.

He said a second plane, reported by a Libyan diplomat here to have also taken off for Jeddah, was still on the ground at Tobruq airport early Thursday.

Egypt Air chief Fahim Rayyan and Usamah al-Baz, chief political advisor to President Husni Mubarak, met at Cairo airport on Wednesday night, the official said.

The UN sanctions committee earlier in the day granted an exemption to the air embargo it imposed on Libya three years ago to allow Egypt Air planes to transport pilgrims from Tripoli and Benghazi to Saudi Arabia.

But an Egypt Air official, who asked not to be named, said the state airline had decided "to delay flights to Libya to transport the Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia until the situation is clarified." [passage omitted]

## Musa Says Position on NPT Firm, Denies Pressure

*NC1904194695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by correspondent Rula Amin in New York; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Amin] The Egyptian stance on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] has recently seemed ambiguous. What is Egypt's position on the issue now?

[Musa] It is as clear as it has always been. Many things are required to make the NPT beneficial to all the parties and to the nonproliferation cause. In the Middle East we have an additional problem, namely, the Israeli nuclear program. If Israel remains outside the NPT and its nuclear program remains without international inspection, this will make it difficult to accept a long-term or indefinite NPT extension.

[Amin] What is the alternative to a long-term extension?

[Musa] This is a subject under discussion now. Are there alternatives, short-term extensions, medium-term extensions? We still have two or three weeks to reach agreement on this. What is certain is that the issue of the Israeli nuclear program will have a decisive effect on our position on the Treaty's indefinite extension.

[Amin] The current impression is that Egypt has backed down from its former position because it did not get enough support ...

[Musa, interrupting] I am not concerned with impressions. In my opinion, this is a wrong impression. Regardless of support or the lack of it, the Egyptian stance will remain firm. We do not rule the world but we certainly rule ourselves and can express our views soundly. We will adopt the position that we judge to be beneficial to Egyptian, pan-Arab, and regional interests. We will adopt such a stance. Egypt's stance will remain firm.

[Amin] Are you under U.S. pressure to change your position?

[Musa] No. There are discussions between us and the United States. They have their views and we have ours. Our view is based on factors unique to this region and to us. We listen to other views, like U.S. views. But our view stems from Middle East security requirements.

## Israeli Minister Comments on Talks With Mubarak

*TA1904115795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 95 p A3*

["Exclusive" report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—Yesterday, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak called on Israel to accelerate the negotiations with the Palestinians and prevent their collapse because the consequences of the failure of the talks with the PLO would impact far beyond the boundaries of the territories. Mubarak pleaded with Israel to ease the closure imposed on the territories which, according to him, "is strangling" the population. This was disclosed by Health Minister Efrayim Sne as he emerged from a meeting with Mubarak at the al-Ittihadiyah Palace in Cairo at the outset of his visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Sne's meeting with Mubarak had not been planned. Israeli diplomats in Cairo noted with satisfaction that Mubarak has recently sought to confer with Israeli ministers visiting Cairo in a bid to encourage the promotion of relations between the two countries in areas overseen by the visitors.

Sne recounted that in the political sphere, Mubarak focused on the question of the negotiations with the Palestinians and said it is very important to promote the talks on this track. The Egyptian president reiterated that the talks with the Palestinians are the key to the entire Middle East peace process and that their success would also have a positive impact on the negotiations with Syria and on Israel's relations with other Arab countries.

Sne said he had raised with Mubarak the security difficulties hindering the implementation of the interim arrangements in the West Bank in view of the Palestinian Authority's lax enforcement of security in the Gaza Strip.

According to Sne, another issue raised by Mubarak was the anti- Egypt pronouncements recently made by Israeli figures. Mubarak particularly noted the remarks of Knesset Member Binyamin Begin, who criticized Egypt's arms procurement. The Egyptian president observed that Israel is also building up its army and mentioned its nuclear buildup in this context. Sne noted, however, that the question of Israel's signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty did not come up in the meeting.

Referring to medical cooperation between the two countries, Mubarak came out in support of expanding bilateral ties. According to Sne, Mubarak said he is not forcing any action or prodding the pertinent bodies in that direction, but he tries to encourage the development of cooperation in this field. Sne went on to say that Mubarak's position on the issue is particularly important in view of the traditional opposition of Egyptian doctors to the development of relations with Israel. [passage omitted]

## Writer: Saddam Unconcerned With People's Hardship

*NC1904191495 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 95 p 16*

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Mubarak has never hesitated to defend the Iraqi people and demand an end to their hardship after the blockade imposed on their country subjected them to hunger, nakedness, and disease.

On numerous occasions President Mubarak declared that this fraternal Arab nation bears no responsibility for what happened and is merely paying the price of a mistake that it did not make.

During his recent meeting with President Clinton at the White House, President Mubarak asked for U.S. assistance to help Iraq sell its oil, or part of it, to provide basic commodities for its population. He said this is better than letting the problem worsen day by day until we lose the Iraqi people.

Because the president's views are appreciated and respected and because Washington has total confidence in Egypt, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution two days ago allowing Iraq to sell quantities of its oil worth $2 billion every six months. This was undoubtedly an important step in improving the Iraqi people's lives after their long suffering.

Saddam Husayn naturally did not like the resolution. As usual he convened a "show" meeting, one of those meetings that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Ba'th Party's Regional Command are known to hold. The meeting attacked the Security Council resolution. The RCC and the Regional Command said it was worse than the two previous ones, Resolutions 706 and 712, which Iraq emphatically rejected.

It is clear that Saddam Husayn does not care if the blockade is lifted, as long as he continues to enjoy an easy palatial life with all the members of his family. But it should not be like this; it should be a question of responsibility first and foremost and of duty toward the country and the people.

## Rights Group Seeks Release of Imprisoned Lawyers

*NC2004074695 Paris AFP in English 2347 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 20 (AFP)—The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) announced Wednesday [19 April] that it would launch a campaign to win freedom for 44 lawyers imprisoned for up to five years under emergency laws.

The lawyers "continue to be illegally imprisoned despite court rulings affirming the innocence of some of them and prosecutors' decisions to free the remainder" for lack of evidence, the EOHR said in a communique.

"The continuing detention of these lawyers is a glaring example of abuse of the powers given to the interior ministry by emergency laws," the rights group added.

It said some of the 44 lawyers, who have been in prison for three to five years, had more than 15 court orders for their release.

The EOHR condemned "the authorities for ignoring repeated calls for the lawyers' release" from numerous regional and international rights groups.

It said illegal arrests were instead on the rise, pointing out that the number of imprisoned lawyers had doubled since March 1994, when 22 were held.

Most of the lawyers were detained in connection with their association with prisoners held in "terrorism cases" or on accusations of transmitting information from "terrorist elements in prisons to their collaborators," it said.

The group said it would begin releasing regular statements "including detailed examples of the imprisoned lawyers" and send letters to authorities and international organizations.

It added that its campaign would begin on April 26, a year after 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, an Islamist lawyer, died while in police custody.

Madani's death "is another example of the lawlessness of the authorities in arrests and imprisonments," the group said, calling on authorities to release the findings of "investigations that were to have been conducted into the circumstances of his demise."

### Qina Court Sentences 3 Defendants To Hang

*NC1904175895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Qina, southern Egypt, 19 Apr (MENA)—The Emergency State Security Court in Qina, southern Egypt, issued its sentence today in criminal case no. 1425 of 1993, Markaz Isna, regarding the assassination of secret policeman Mukhtar Ahmad Dawud. Three defendants were sentenced to death by hanging. They are Muhammad Sa'd 'Ali Ahmad, Muhammad Qinnawi Ahmad Muhammad, and Muntasir al-Amir Bahr.

The court also sentenced six defendants to life with hard labor: Mustafa 'Abd-al-Mun'im Muhammad, Ibrahim Hazin Ibrahim, Khalifah Bakri al-Fadi, Salah Muhammad Ibrahim Madani, 'Id Ahmad 'Abd-al- Jalil, and Abu-al-Majd Hanafi Muhammad.

The court decided Badri Makhluf Husayn was innocent.

The court earlier issued a decision to refer the files of three defendants in the case to the mufti of the Republic. The sentences of the remaining defendants had been postponed until today.

### Security Forces Storm 'Terrorist' Hideout, Kill 3

*NC1904140095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible security source at the Ministry of Interior has stated that as part of the Interior Ministry's efforts to track down fugitive elements of violence in the country and to cleanse all terrorist dens, a group of terrorists were discovered hiding in a mountain cave 25 kilometers from the borders of Mallawi and Dayr Mawas in al-Minya. The source said that a unit from the Terrorist Combating Forces, which belong to the State Security, surrounded the den. The Forces were taken by surprise and shots were fired at them. The Forces shot back immediately and three fugitive terrorist leaders, who are wanted for a number of terrorist incidents, were shot to death. Some weapons, hand-made explosive devices, huge amounts of ammunition, and a number of organizational documents and forged documents were found with the terrorists.

## Libya

### Hajj Pilgrims Appeal To World Organizations

*LD1904184995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 19 Apr—The pilgrims who this afternoon left Tripoli International Airport for Mecca within the first batch of pilgrims to perform the Hajj have addressed an appeal to international organizations. Here is the text: At a time when we are leaving for God's Holy House, resolving, with God's assistance, to perform the Hajj for this year, we address the following appeal to the living human conscience, and to organizations at the Arab and Islamic levels and throughout the world. We have waited long for you to shoulder your responsibilities; we expected you to intervene in order to halt the arrogance and the policy of hatred and provocation against us. On every occasion we appealed to you and addressed your living conscience. Now we are repeating and renewing our appeal in the hope that we will find someone among you who will hear the appeal.

The resolutions that the so-called Security Council is adopting against us, preventing us from exercising our right to perform the rituals of our religion, cannot be approved by any legislation or law; it cannot be endorsed by any norm. This year we have taken our brave decision to challenge this arrogance and violate what had been done by the colonialist states to humiliate us and make us kneel. We would like to reaffirm that we will not kneel nor submit to their resolutions, and will not comply with what they want because we have a right and we work for upholding the word of God. Forward.

### Opposition Conference in Atlanta Reported

*MM1904151095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 95 p 6*

[Report by 'Ali al-Ruzz: "Libyan Salvation Front Conference Calls For UN Role and Reaffirms Readiness for Meeting of All Factions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Atlanta—Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the opposition National

Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL], has announced "the front's rejection of any call by the Libyan regime for reconciliation at the expense of giving up the demand for the downfall of that regime." He urged the United Nations to play a part in helping the Libyan people and declared "the front's willingness to participate in preparations for a conference of all opposition factions."

The NFSL's fourth conference opened Saturday-Sunday night in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States in the presence of about 200 people, including opposition faction representatives, independent figures, representatives of councils of various areas, and a Spanish diplomat in Washington representing the Spanish Government.

Some NFSL military personnel also participated, including Colonel Salih al-Habbuni, staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Shaykhi, Air Captain Jamal al-Kabawi, and the officers who managed to get out of Libya after the failure of the October 1993 uprising, namely Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Bashir, Major 'Abd-al-Salam al-Wa'ir, and Captain Salim al-Wa'ir.

'Ashur Bin-Khayyal, the deputy to Mansur al-Kikhya, secretary general of the Libyan National Alliance [LNA] who was kidnapped in Cairo in December 1993, made a speech in which he said that the LNA's participation was "a confirmation of Mansur's line. Those who kidnapped him will never succeed in diverting us from the target of a free and democratic Libya." He said that al-Kikhya, who attended the NFSL's 1992 conference in Dallas, was the "target of an unprecedented number of threats until the moment he was kidnapped." He stressed that "available information and evidence indicate that he is in al-Qadhdhafi's Jamahiriyah."

'Isam 'Awad spoke on behalf of the Libyan Democratic Grouping [LDG]. He called for a "serious self-searching pause with allies and friends to assess what we have been doing." He also called for "practical and specific programs linked to our people's suffering at home because external battles could be imaginary and linked to the West's interests with the regime." He confirmed "the LDG's willingness to work with you and the opposition factions for the homeland's sovereignty and the people's rights."

Salih Ja'wadah, representative of Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, chairman of "the Coordination Committee of Libyan Patriotic and Democratic Forces," warned that "there is a real threat to Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity." He added that the regime "made concessions to everyone except the Libyan people." He criticized the state of the opposition and called for "discussions, assessment, and joint action."(...)

The speakers also included 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad for the Libyan Student Federation and Egyptian Islamic scholar Dr. Muhammad Fathi 'Uthman who praised the front and urged it to prepare a declaration of constitutional principles. Dr. Muhammad Barwayn (independent attached to the Islamic trend) criticized the opposition and its fragmentation. He said: "It either advances or dies in exile." He attributed "the failure of the opposition to several reasons, the most important being the crisis of leadership, organization, programs, and morals." He stressed the need for agreement on a "code of honor."

Other speeches were made at the opening by a number of guests and by Col. al-Habbuni who was introduced by the chairman as the commander of the "Libyan National Army," the front's military wing, and by Maj. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Wa'ir on behalf of "the officers of the October uprising."

Al-Muqaryif made a speech in which he discussed the Libyan situation and gave a historical review of the government practices over the past 25 years. He said that "the opposition's plan, as the front sees it, is a national serious call to all Libyans to make efforts to restore constitutional legitimacy in Libya."

He emphasized that putting an end to the Libyan regime "is an essential requirement for the salvation of Libya," and that restoration of constitutional legitimacy "is a vital demand supported by all Libyans." He said that changing the regime "is above all a Libyan mission but it is at the same time a regional and international responsibility."

Al-Muqaryif, on behalf of the front, appealed to the United Nations "in its capacity as the organization which sponsored Libya's independence in 1951" to "understand the suffering of the Libyan people and their legitimate right to struggle for their own salvation and for the salvation of the international community." He said that the UN sanctions' "full burden fell on the Libyan people." He urged the Security Council to "find a new way of dealing with the two crimes of the French and U.S. airliner bombings. The U.S., French, and British Governments should have enough courage to point an accusing finger directly" at the head of the regime.

Al-Muqaryif spoke about the efforts made by the front to unite the Libyan opposition, and he renewed its commitment to the principles and objectives listed in the joint statement issued by him, al-Huni, and al-Kikhya at the Algiers meeting in 1993. He said that "our strategic aims should be clearly and decisively defined, our struggle programs and instruments reexamined, and the highest degree of struggle solidarity, coordination, and cooperation achieved with appropriate ethical conduct."

He reaffirmed "the front's absolute rejection of any call encouraged or made by the regime for a reconciliation with it at the expense of the Libyan people's agreement to drop their demand for the termination of the putschist regime or their demand for al-Qadhdhafi to give up all his revolutionary, political, and military powers officially and publicly."

He warned against "what a response to such calls might entail in terms of undermining and forfeiting the Libyan people's national aspirations at this stage and in terms of giving the regime a chance to survive and continue." He condemned "the claim by some regional and international circles that survival of the Libyan regime is necessary for the region's stability or that its demise would be detrimental to Libyan national unity or could lead to a civil war or an extremist alternative."

He reaffirmed the front's two aims of "bringing down the regime and introducing a constitutional democratic alternative." He said that any transitional authority must undertake to "guarantee all fundamental rights and liberties, abolish exceptional laws and decisions, release all political detainees, dissolve all bodies and organizations created by al-Qadhdhafi, especially the so-called secretariat of the General People's Congress, the people's congresses, the revolutionary committees, and the people's committees, form a provisional civilian government, start arrangements for general elections to elect a constituent assembly that would produce a draft constitution to be submitted to a public referendum, negotiate with the Security Council with a view to finding a solution to the crisis of the two airliners in the context of legitimate sovereignty and international legitimacy, and hand over power at the end of the transitional period to elected bodies under the constitution after its approval by the public."

Incidentally, the number of attendees at the closed morning session preceding the conference was 145 not 65, as AL-HAYAH reported yesterday.

## Sudan

### Al-Turabi Announces 'Renaissance of Islam'

*BR1904133595 Paris LE FIGARO in French 15 Apr 95 p 2*

[Interview with Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi by Thierry Desjardins in Khartoum; date not given: "Hasan al-Tourabi: To Separate God From the State Is a Diabolic Absurdity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Desjardins] You are constantly announcing "the inevitable triumph" of Islam. How do you imagine the 21st century?

[Al-Turabi] First, Europe will establish itself and it will be able to play an original role, independent of the United States. The Atlantic alliance, which no longer has any meaning today, will disappear. Everything will thus change in the constellation of world forces. And then China will finally wake up. That also will upset many things on the planet. But, as to the rest, the major event will of course be the renaissance of Islam. There is no doubt about it.

[Desjardins] Why?

[Al-Turabi] Because nationalism is also disappearing in both the Arab world and in Africa, as well as in the Third World in general. And for all these peoples there is only one point of reference: their membership in the Islamic community. All these peoples have had many disappointments with all the ideologies which have been imported to them—liberalism, communism, nationalism. All of it was completely foreign to them. They will again find their reason for existing in Islam. And it is also revealing that this great return to roots is happening first of all here in Sudan, a poor country, without a great history, on the border of the Arab and African worlds.

[Desjardins] But why do you think that the future of the Arab world, of Africa, and of the Third World in general lies in a theocracy?

[Al-Turabi] But it is the future of the entire world which is in God, with God. Me, I am...Cartesian, logical. If one believes in God, one is forced to admit that he is everywhere, that nothing can be done without him. God is in daily life, in politics, school, in art, in literature, in the economy, yes, everywhere. In the West you are not rational. You say that you believe in God, but you have closed him up, imprisoned him in your churches, in your tabernacles. And you only listen to him on Sunday morning, for a half hour, during the mass. The rest of the time God does not exist, you think you are strong enough to do without him, to no longer listen to him! You are crazy! The separation of God and the state of which you are so proud is totally mad. It is a...diabolic absurdity. Or—but you do not dare to say it—the fact is that you do not believe in God. When one believes in God, one respects him, listens to him, obeys him day and night, all the days and all the nights of one's life, and one tries to organize everything according to his message—public life, education, family life, everything.

[Desjardins] But Christianity is undoubtedly different...

[Al-Turabi] Not at all. I know many Christian countries—France, Spain, Italy. You no longer believe in God. The corruption of the Christian political circles proves in itself that you no longer believe in God.

[Desjardins] There are also Muslim countries where corruption...

[Al-Turabi] Yes, exactly, but we also ended up forgetting God. Most democracies, dictatorships, or monarchies which call themselves Islamic are in total contradiction to Islam, and they must be overthrown. The people will see to it. The world has gotten to the point of no longer celebrating God apart from a single morning a week—we do it on Friday, the Jews on Saturday, and the rest of you on Sunday. The world has been going to ruin. That is why I have proposed to the Pope a "common front." I also propose it to the Jews. The three monotheistic religions must mobilize to give God his power, to give man back to God.

[Desjardins] But the three monotheistic religions are quite different...

[Al-Turabi] Not at all. It is the same God, there is only one God. It is the same religion. Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, it is the same religion. The values of this single God are the same, exactly the same. All our prophets have affirmed the same values, but like everything in history, problems have evolved and prophets have renewed the forms of expression. That is all. Today these forms of expression must be constantly renewed.

[Desjardins] Do you feel yourself to be the prophet of the end of the century?

[Al-Turabi] (Slight smile...) The real problem today—and this is why I propose a common front of all the peoples of the Book—is to fight against our depraved societies which have eliminated God from life to relegate him to the mosques, churches, or synagogues.

[Desjardins] But how can you imagine that at this end of the 20th century men can accept renouncing democracy?

[Al-Turabi] But Islam, because it is the most modern form of God's message, is the most democratic religion. In Islam, there is nothing between man and God, no intermediary, no clergy, no feudal powers, nothing. Man is completely free, alone face to face with God. And God's message orders us to give, to share, everything—power, knowledge, property, wealth. This total sharing is democracy pushed to the furthest recesses of daily life. This is God's message.

[Desjardins] But how can you simultaneously call for a "common front" of the three monotheistic religions and launch your crusade against the West; in other words, against Judeo-Christian civilization?

[Al-Turabi] We are not "against" anyone. On the contrary, we receive everyone, we enrich each other and we also want to give. Most of the leaders of what we call the "Islamic revolution" are, like me, from the Christian, Western culture. We speak your languages, I know the history of France better than the history of Sudan, I love your culture, your painters, your musicians...

[Desjardins] How do you translate into French the word "jihad" which we translate by the holy war of Islam against the West?

[Al-Turabi] It is a difficult word to translate. There is the notion of effort and that of resistance at the same time. It is debate, dialogue, effort against effort, riposte. At this moment, you and I are practicing jihad. You advance arguments, I respond with my argument...

[Desjardins] But you are joking! The jihad is war, violence, terrorism. When you decree the jihad, it is against the West, it is the order to kill the infidels...

[Al-Turabi] Not at all. The true Muslim must never be the first to begin a confrontation. And if the confrontation begins by the fault of others, then the true Muslim must do everything to settle the matter by discussion, by persuasion. It is only if the other person uses violence that the true Muslim can then use it as well. He must—it is an order of God—defend himself and defend the true values. But in the notion of the jihad there is always the notion of piety. All excesses must be avoided. If the true Muslim has been attacked by violence, he must defend himself by violence, but as soon as he has won, he must stop. Blood must not flow needlessly.

[Desjardins] Finally, do you want to install your Islamic republic throughout the world to make people happy or to obey God?

[Al-Turabi] That is the question of a Westerner who does not truly believe in God! The only way to make men happy is to obey God, and vice versa. God wants men to be happy—Muslims, Christians, Jews, and even animals. To make a beast suffer is against the will of God. We are all creatures of God, elements of a group created by God.

[Desjardins] And what about progress, literacy, the fight against disease, agriculture...

[Al-Turabi] But God wants us to mobilize ourselves for progress. He does not want us to content ourselves with praying. The Koran says: "Go pray and go work and go mobilize all the energies of society for the good of society." Islam is spiritual, it is intellectual, it is material. Islam demands progress. To advance agricultural production, artistic creation, the sciences, these are acts of religion. And all of this out of respect for the creation of God. We must seek the unity and happiness of all beings created by God out of respect for nature, itself created by God.

[Desjardins] Imposing the shari'ah is contributing to the happiness of people?

[Al-Turabi] It is not I who has imposed the shari'ah, it is al-Numayri, who was a dictator...

[Desjardins] At that time you were his legal adviser and you advocated the introduction of this shari'ah in all the Islamic world. Is whipping people in the public square...

[Al-Turabi] I have always taken a keen interest in criminology. It is very difficult to know how to punish a guilty person. The United States, which reproaches us for practicing the death penalty, is reinstating it in most of its states, thus appearing to put us in the right. We are also reproached for preferring whipping to prison. But prison seems to me to be unfair and ineffective. Unfair because it punishes the guilty person's entire family, which is thus deprived for months of the aid which the guilty person provides it. Ineffective because prison is not public. It thus provides no example. Whipping is doubly good: First of all, the guilty person receives blows of the whip and then, afterward, he can return to his work to support his family; then, everyone witnesses the whipping, which gives pause to those who might be inclined to commit the same error.

[Desjardins] And the amputations of thieves?

[Al-Turabi] There has been only one this year in Khartoum and thefts have practically disappeared in the country, which is not the case in the countries which imprison those who have stolen a piece of bread. In Islam, by the way, a man who steals food because he is hungry or to feed his family is not condemned.

[Desjardins] The other day, a man received 96 blows of the whip in the public square because he had been arrested for drunkenness.

[Al-Turabi] Alcohol is prohibited by the law. I cannot recall the exact number of French people who are killed by alcohol each year on the roads.

[Desjardins] And for the status of women? Do you find that there is progress there as well?

[Al-Turabi] That is the success of which I am the most proud. I have been able to impose a genuine revolution for the status of women in Sudan. For centuries Sudanese women had to remain closeted at home. I have demanded that they be given back the status they had during the time of the prophet, when they participated in all the activities of the city. Today, in Sudan, women are in the army, in the police, in the ministries, everywhere, on the same footing as men, and I am very proud of that.

[Desjardins] But you want them to be veiled!

[Al-Turabi] I also dress decently when I meet other people! Out of respect for others and out of respect for myself. And I am for equality between the sexes. A woman who is not veiled is not the equal of men. She is not looked on as one would look on a man. She is looked at to see if she is beautiful, if she is desirable. When she is veiled, she is considered a human being, not an object of pleasure, not an erotic image. She is respected like a brother.

[Desjardins] But you are hiding a creature of God!

[Al-Turabi] A family is being safeguarded. The family is a sacred institution. It is the family which "makes" children. It takes 15 years of daily work to make a child, to make a man worthy of the name. I thus want everything done to protect the institution which makes children—the family.

[Desjardins] Okay, now tell me the truth: Why or in return for what did you deliver Carlos to France?

[Al-Turabi] I prefer to talk of God rather than of the devil. But since you insist, I can give you my word of honor that we have asked for nothing and obtained nothing in exchange for Carlos. When I learned that he was in the country, I sent a message to him to leave as quickly as possible, that I did not want him to stay in Sudan. Some time later I asked if he had left on his own. I was told that he was still here. Then I said: Since he did not want to understand, give him to the French. We are a nation of the law.

[Desjardins] Do you have other terrorists taking refuge in Sudan?

[Al-Turabi] We are a nation of the law.

[Desjardins] It would seem that there are training camps in the suburbs of Khartoum for commandos of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, Hizballah, Afghans.

[Al-Turabi] A senior U.S. official told me the same thing last week. I told him: If you want, we will take my car right away, it is air conditioned, and we will go where you want in search of these famous camps. This story of training camps for terrorists in the suburbs of Khartoum is absurd. And for three reasons. First, because we condemn terrorism; next, because Sudan is a very poor country which cannot support all the commandos of the world; finally, because we have a territory of 2,500,000 square kilometers, and if we wanted to have secret training camps they would certainly not be in the suburbs of Khartoum.

[Desjardins] For years, the Sudanese Army has been massacring the animist or Christian populations of the south of the country. How can you sanction, in the name of Islam, this war of extermination against the Sudan's non-Muslim minorities?

[Al-Turabi] This war has been going on for years, and contrary to what is said in the West, it is not a war of religion. Originally, it was a war of secession mounted by certain countries which are Sudan's enemies. Then those responsible for this secession attempt tore each other apart, and that is undoubtedly what has caused the most victims among the population. Today I think that a solution will finally be found by creating a true Sudanese federation with 16 states for the north and 10 states for the south. The southern war will end and peace will be able to return.

[Desjardins] But will the Christians and animists of the South have to live under Koranic law?

[Al-Turabi] Of course not. The shari'ah is only applied in the 16 states of the north.

[Desjardins] And the "southerners" living in the north?

[Al-Turabi] They will be subject to the laws of the state in which they are living.

## Al-Bashir Returns From IGADD Summit

*EA1904104095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, returned to the country this afternoon from Addis Ababa, where he attended the intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, IGADD, summit.

Staff Lieutenant General al-Bashir addressed the opening session of the conference and called for the transformation of IGADD into a regional organization for economic cooperation and integration, based on the African economic group's pact, which advocates the establishment of regional economic groupings.

Staff Lieutenant General al-Bashir proposed that member states establish a ministerial committee to study all aspects of joint cooperation and submit its findings to the next conference. His excellency said that the region's peace and stability depended on economic integration. [passage omitted]

### Saudi Minister Warns Aginst Undermining GCC Security

*LD1904202195 Riyadh SPA in English 1949 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, April 19, SPA—[Saudi] Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz extemporized a speech here Tuesday [18 April] during the third extraordinary meeting of GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] interior ministers, in which he expressed happiness for meeting in Bahrain, on behalf of all GCC interior ministers. He said the ministers were also happy to have met Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-salman Al Khalifah who gave them precious directives towards serving the security and stability of this important part of the world.

On behalf of GCC interior ministers, Prince Nayif also extended thanks to his Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah for his kind invitation to convene this extraordinary meeting at a critical time for Bahrain and other states in the region as well. He said permanent directives from GCC leaders to the interior ministers are to make security their first priority and pointed out that the security of all GCC states is connected and any attempt to undermine the security of one state is an attempt to undermine the security of all six member states.

He said his Bahraini counterpart explained many things in his address to the meeting and stressed the necessity of confronting the reality with all its negative and positive aspects. He called on countries outside the Gulf Cooperation Council to open "cordial and objective cooperation channels" to realize stability and understanding in this crucial region. He said unfortunately, these countries turn a few (GCC) citizens into tools to undermine security and stability, which is a regrettable thing that must be confronted.

"We would not accept for our citizens to have loyalty for any party other than God the almighty, their creed, and their homelands. Undoubtedly, those who perform such acts are misled...we know the backgrounds and we say to those abroad stop at this limit and open the channels of right which has the response of all the leaders, governments and peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council," he said. [sentence as received]

"I say to them quite frankly that they serve neither their interests nor our own...and these methods have been tried at previous times and the losers were the peoples," he added.

#### Comments on Libyan Pilgrims

*LD1904121995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Asked by journalists at the conclusion of the third extraordinary meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council interior ministers in Manama last evening, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, gave a negative answer when asked whether he had said that Libyan airliners carrying pilgrims from Libya could fly in only with permission from the United Nations. His highness said: I did not say that. Concerning the situation so far in this context, his highness said: I can speak only in accordance with my responsibilities as interior minister and say that I and the security organs are responsible for the security of any Muslim pilgrim who arrives in the territory of the Kingdom, and for receiving them and facilitating their entry and security. Asked whether it would be possible to send airplanes to bring in Libyan pilgrims, Prince Nayif said: I cannot speak about something that is the prerogative of somebody else. [passage omitted]

## Bahrain

### Amir Condoles Clinton on 'Horrible' Explosion

*JN2004083295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 Apr (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has sent a cable of condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton. His highness expressed his heartfelt condolences to the victims of the horrible explosion that hit a building in the U.S. state of Oklahoma, killing many U.S. citizens.

### U.S. Congressional Delegation Meets Officials

#### Defense Minister Greets Team

*JN1904142995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 19 Apr (WAKH)—Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, this morning met with a U.S. House of Representatives delegation headed by Floyd Spence, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on National Security.

During the meeting, they reviewed friendly bilateral ties and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi and U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain David Ransome.

#### Foreign Minister Comments on Ties

*JN1904143295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 19 Apr (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah at noon today met with a U.S. House of Representatives delegation currently visiting

Bahrain led by Floyd Spence, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on National Security.

During the meeting, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah welcomed the delegation's visit to the State of Bahrain, during which it met with senior Bahraini officials, and underlined the importance of promoting and enhancing U.S.-Bahraini ties of cooperation in the interest of the two friendly countries as well as regional security and stability.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi and U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain David Ransome.

### Amir Lauds 'Wise' U.S. Policy

*JN1904133595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 19 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, received here this morning a delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives led by Floyd Spence, head of the House's Committee on National Security, currently visiting Manama.

During the meeting, his highness the amir of Bahrain welcomed the delegation and noted the strong relations between both friendly countries and peoples. He also voiced his satisfaction with promoting cooperation with the United States in various fields.

His highness also lauded the wise policy the U.S. Administration is pursuing in terms of preserving regional security and stability and finding solutions to various international issues, including the Middle East issue.

The conferees reviewed the scope of cooperation, current regional developments, Arab and international issues of mutual concern, and the Middle East peace process.

For his part, Spence voiced his gratitude and appreciation for his highness the amir's concern about enhancing the relations of friendship and cooperation with the United States. He lauded the wise policy Bahrain is pursuing in the service of peace throughout the world. He also noted the development and progress Bahrain is witnessing in various fields, as well as Bahrain's prominent status and good reputation in regional and international fora. [passage omitted]

### Last Phase of Joint Air Exercise Concludes

*JN1904145295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 19 Apr (WAKH)—The last phase of the air exercise conducted by the Bahraini Amiri Air Force, along with Air Force units from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States was concluded this morning.

On the occasion, Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, expressed satisfaction with the good results achieved and the high standards met by the Bahraini Amiri Air Force troops during preparations for the various phases of this exercise and their implementation. He underlined the importance of conducting further joint air exercises involving brothers and friends, noting that this will help promote and upgrade the combat performance of all those participating in such exercises. [passage omitted]

It is recalled that this joint air exercise began on 9 April. Aircraft such as F-16's affiliated with the Bahraini Amiri Air Force, F-15 and Tornado aircraft affiliated with the Saudi Royal Air Force, Mirage-2000 aircraft belonging to the United Arab Emirates Air Force, F-18 aircraft affiliated with the Kuwaiti Air Force, and F-16 U.S. Air Force planes were involved in the exercise. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### Investment Accord Signed With Tajikistan

*LD1804193295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1907 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 Apr—Three agreements between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Tajikistan were signed this evening. The first agreement is concerned with the encouragement of investments and was signed on the Kuwaiti side by Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and minister of finance, and on the Tajik side by Temurjonov Holisjon, the deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

### Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

*LD1904103095 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmanov and the delegation accompanying him has left Kuwaiti International Airport after an official three-day visit to Kuwait.

The amir of Kuwait; the National Assembly speaker; the acting prime minister and foreign minister; ministers; governors; senior army, police, and national guard officers; and the doyen of the diplomatic corps were at the airport to see the Tajik president off.

## Qatar

### Foreign Minister Receives Message From Christopher

*JN1904173795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 19 Apr (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani has received a written message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. Secretary of Treasury Robert Robin.

U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Kenton Wesley Keith relayed the message to the Qatari minister here today.

The Qatari News Agency reported that the message deals with bilateral ties and several issues of common interest.

### Amir Receives Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan

*JN1904102495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 19 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, today met with Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, Jordanian crown prince and head of the Arab Thought Forum, on the occasion of his visit to Qatar to attend the opening of the ninth annual meeting of the forum's General Assembly.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said the meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Health Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani, and Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Nasir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Nasr in addition to the delegation accompanying Prince Hasan.

### Heir Apparent Receives Iraqi Justice Minister

*JN1804193395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 18 Apr (INA)—[Iraqi] Minister of Justice Shabib al-Maliki met here today with Qatari Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

Discussions dealt with means of bolstering and developing relations of cooperation between the two sisterly states in a manner that realizes joint interests and serves the Arab nation.

The importance of Arab solidarity at the current stage of the Arab nation was emphasized at the meeting.

The justice minister reviewed the latest developments in relations between the Security Council and Iraq concerning the unjust siege imposed on Iraq and U.S. Resolution 986 which represents a violation of Iraq's sovereignty, perpetuates the siege, and prevents the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687.

The Qatari heir apparent asked the justice minister to convey his greetings to leader President Saddam Husayn, and stressed that the State of Qatar is eager to bolster its relations with Iraq in all fields.

## Saudi Arabia

### Libyan Pilgrims Arrive in Jeddah, Celebrate

*LD1904234995 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first batch of Libyan Arab pilgrims and Arab and Muslim volunteers arrived in Jeddah tonight en route to the holy places for performing the rites of the pilgrimage for this year.

The Libyan Arab airlines plane with pilgrims on board landed at Jeddah airport arriving from Tripoli International Airport. It is the first such trip with pilgrims on board.

The correspondents of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY who accompanied the first batch of pilgrims reported that as soon as the plane landed in Jeddah the pilgrims began to chant : God is great; God is great. [passage omitted]

## Yemen

### President Receives Omani Minister, Qabus Message

*JN1904132595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received Omani Minister of Information 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas who conveyed a message to the president from his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman dealing with fraternal bilateral relations and horizons of cooperation, in addition to regional and Arab developments and issues that concern the two countries.

The president asked the Omani minister to convey his greetings to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, along with his best wishes to him and to the fraternal Omani people for continued progress.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salim Ba-Sindwah, Minister of Transportation Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, and Omani ambassador in Sanaa 'Awad Mahfuz Ba-Kathir.

### Foreign Minister Receives Cuban Deputy Minister

*JN1904134095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this morning with the Cuban deputy foreign minister, who is visiting our country at the head of a Cuban delegation.

Discussions dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing and strengthening them.

The meeting was attended by the Cuban ambassador to our country and deputy head of the Latin America Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, an official round of talks was held between our country and the friendly Republic of Cuba. Our country's side was led by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman, and the Cuban side was led by Deputy Cuban Foreign Minister (Bagino Bigali).

Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere and discussions dealt with international issues of mutual concern.

From the Yemeni side, the talks were attended by a number of Foreign Ministry officials, while from the Cuban side the talks were attended by the accompanying delegation and the Cuban ambassador to Yemen.

### Foreign Minister on Saudi Ties, Regional Issues

*MM1404135895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p4*

[Interview with Dr.'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ma'ruf] The Yemeni-Saudi Memorandum of Understanding is still the subject of discussion and debates in Yemen. What does Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim has to say about this Memorandum?

[Al-Iryani] Undoubtedly, this Memorandum provides a peaceful framework which should enable the two countries to enter into serious negotiations leading to the settlement of the border conflict between them and the establishment of unblemished relations as well as the placing of these relations within their natural form, which should be the form that governs them.

[Ma'ruf] There are some who say that Yemen has provided all that is required of it in the Memorandum, while what Saudi Arabia is required to offer Yemen was left to be the subject of negotiations which might take a long time. What do you say to that?

[Al-Iryani] This is just an opinion.... Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have committed themselves to something that exists and there have been no concessions.

[Ma'ruf] Did Yemeni economic conditions play a role in pushing you toward signing the Memorandum?

[Al-Iryani] Not at all. This is because economic matters can never play a role in matters of sovereignty. I do not think that any country in the world would subject matters affecting its sovereignty to economic conditions.

[Ma'ruf] Anyone who follows the process of Saudi-Yemeni relations cannot but note that they are always tense. Why is that?

[Al-Iryani] This is due to the sensitivities that normally exist among neighbors. But these sensitivities should not turn into crises. What caused the sensitivities between neighbors in the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen to develop into crises was the concern over the borders. The Yemeni-Saudi borders have always been a source of concern that cast its shadow on relations between the two countries. But we all must learn the lesson of border conflicts and the dangers inherent in them. Certainly, our relations will not be ironed out and will not be settled until this conflict comes to an end.

[Ma'ruf] You told us once that the Arabs should resort to international circles in matters of borders, because there is no Arab mechanism for resolving border problems. What do you think now?

[Al-Iryani] This principle has been included in the Memorandum of Understanding. It states that we should refer all matters we cannot agree upon to arbitration. But, naturally, arbitration should not be the first step. For all nonarbitrationary matters should be exhausted first. Only then should we go to arbitration. This is only to be expected.

[Ma'ruf] Some 850,000 Yemeni expatriates have returned following the crisis in relations with Saudi Arabia. Is this true?

[Al-Iryani] Those who have returned and registered themselves number 850,000. But there were many others who crossed the borders but failed to register themselves. Only God knows how many of these there were. But it is estimated that the number who have returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exceeds 1 million.... I have only said this just to clarify things.

[Ma'ruf] The 1934 al-Ta'if Agreement, around which the Memorandum of Understanding was based, spoke of special treatment for Yemeni citizens in Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Iryani] There is a paragraph in the al-Ta'if Agreement that states that both sides were obligated to give the other side the maximum degree of preferential treatment. This is a matter of principle by which we in Yemen abide. We accord this preferential treatment to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to all Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries. The citizens of these countries can obtain entry visas into Yemen from border posts. Even the citizens of some Asian countries too usually obtain entry visas into Gulf countries from border posts. But the Yemenis do not enjoy such privileged treatment from these countries [GCC and Saudi Arabia].

The principle of preferential treatment should prevail between us and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, not only because it is stated in the al-Ta'if Agreement but also because of the dictates of neighborhood and fraternity. This principle of preferential treatment is not confined to the Yemeni worker. There are numerous other fields between the two countries that should be governed by this principle as well. The natural thing would be for the two countries to formulate this paragraph or sentence of the al-Ta'if Agreement into protocols that could lay a sound foundation for relations between the two countries.

[Ma'ruf] When will the committees provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding be formed and when will they meet?

[Al-Iryani] I expect this to take place toward the end of the current month or the beginning of next month. These are only my expectations. Contacts are going on to fix these dates.

[Ma'ruf] Has the joint military committee resolved the question of military border posts?

[Al-Iryani] It has nearly finished doing so. There is some sort of semi-agreement. The points upon which agreement has not been reached will be discussed and settled during the next meeting which is scheduled to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Ma'ruf] When does President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih plan to visit Riyadh?

[Al-Iryani] This question should not be addressed to a Yemeni.

[Ma'ruf] In a recent statement, you stated that the economic measures that have been taken lately were not due to any pressure.

[Al-Iryani] What I meant was any political pressures, that is the offering of political positions under economic pressures. For we are not prepared to formulate any political positions under pressure.

As regards the economic measures, they were connected with the IMF and the World Bank. Naturally, these two organizations cannot turn their policies upside down just for the sake of Yemen. Many countries consider the IMF policy as being part of the pressures, or one of the means of pressure, brought to bear on this country or that to force it to change its economic policy course. However, there are, in fact, no major differences between our vision and theirs with regard to the economic matters under discussion. I could even say that they had no objection to the vision we had prepared for them.

[Ma'ruf] The Gulf war continues to cast its shadow over Yemeni relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. What do you say about that?

[Al-Iryani] It is more so in the case of Kuwait.

[Ma'ruf] How long will these shadows continue to hover over inter-Arab relations?

[Al-Iryani] Until the day when God inherits the earth and all that is on it. The shadows of this tragedy can only go when the parties concerned decide so.

[Ma'ruf] But Yemen, by virtue of its position in the Arab conscience, could play a role in this regard.

[Al-Iryani] No. This is because they have made Yemen a party to the tension now reigning over inter-Arab relations.

[Ma'ruf] Have matters become less acute following the Memorandum of Understanding with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Iryani] No. The matter has not been terminated either by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or by Kuwait.

[Ma'ruf] The Arabs continue to blockade Iraq.... But for how long will they continue to do so?

[Al-Iryani] The current Arab generation has paid only part of the price for what has happened. Future generations will be the ones that will pay the major and dearer part of the price. For today, we are committing a crime not against the Iraqi people alone but against ourselves and our future Arab generations. I am confident of this. All of us, those who love Iraq and those who hate it, are paying the price. But we have only paid the first installment. The remaining installment, which as I have said is the bigger and dearer part, we have chosen with full responsibility to load on the shoulders of future Arab generations.

[Ma'ruf] Yemen seems rather unconcerned about the Middle East peace process. Why is that?

[Al-Iryani] Officially, we have welcomed all the peace steps. We have not absented ourselves from the so-called multilateral negotiations. But we are not a basic element in the peace process formula. Indeed, we are not even an element. We do not consider ourselves either a number or a letter in the formula. But for peace to prevail—that is a matter that Yemen would welcome and feel happy about. But the peace that should reign should be a just and comprehensive one, otherwise it would be like the Versailles Treaty (after World War I) which led to the breakout of World War II.

[Ma'ruf] Your relations with Egypt, since the Gulf crisis, have been characterized by coolness. This state of affairs has manifested itself more clearly in Egypt's position toward the secession [of southern Yemen]. But these days, I see that these relations are being activated. What do you say about this?

[Al-Iryani] Our relations with Egypt are not abnormal in many matters. This is evident in the political differences about this or that issue.

I am one of those who say that Egypt's orientation throughout history was toward the Red Sea and not toward the Mediterranean or North Africa. Yemen is a steady and well-known factor since the days of the Romans and Persians. It is the cornerstone in the region and I do not imagine the strategy of any country could be in conflict with history.

I hope nobody will feel any sensitivity about this statement of mine, or form the impression that I am trying to impose a certain strategy upon Egypt. All I am trying to do is to explain why Yemen attaches great priority to its relations with Egypt. Furthermore, we consider Egypt to always have a leading role in Arab issues. If Egypt were to withhold its role in the joint Arab action, the Arab World would become weak.

[Ma'ruf] You have mediated between Sudan and Eritrea. What has happened to this role?

[Al-Iryani] Unfortunately, we have not succeeded as much as we wanted. But a mediator cannot rule himself out unless he is asked by any of the parties to stop his efforts.

[Ma'ruf] Has Sudan or Eritrea asked you to stop your mediation?

[Al-Iryani] No. Neither of them has conveyed a wish that we stop our mediation.

## Daily Publishes Correction to Minister's Remarks

*MM1804140595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Apr 95 p 4*

["Notice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani published by AL-QUDS AL'ARABI yesterday, he was quoted as saying that "relations with Egypt are abnormal." Actually the word "not" was dropped, and the correct phrase is "relations with Egypt are not abnormal." It is necessary to draw attention to this and a spokesman for Dr. al-Iryani has emphasized that relations between Egypt and Yemen are very good.

## Spokesman Refutes 'Odious' Talbott Accusations

*NC2004094295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Iraq described the expressions used by Strobe Talbott, assistant U.S. secretary of state, at Bilkent University in Turkey on 11 April, as insolent and reflecting U.S. arrogance. The expressions were also described as odious and were rejected as interference in Iraq's internal affairs through the falsification of facts.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA today that the solutions proposed by Talbott for the problems facing the region are in line with the U.S. mentality of hegemony and control and an attempt to impose Washington's will on the international community in line with the "cowboy" mentality which is above the law and which permits itself to kill and massacre innocent people.

The spokesman added: Talbott labelled Iraq an outlaw state. We do not know who gave the United States the right to label countries according to its desires and whims and what criteria it is using to make such appelations. Is Iraq, a country with a long history and the first in the world to enact laws, an outlaw country or is the outlaw country the United States itself, which is violating international law and human rights and trying to turn the United Nations into its own platform that follows its orders in accordance with its plans to spread destabilization, terrorism, oppression, and chaos the world over and thus to detach it from this organization's aims of spreading security, peace, and calm throughout the world.

He said: Talbott's praise for U.S.-Turkish cooperation in northern Iraq through the so-called Hammer Force, which he claims provides a deterrent to terrorism, is contrary to reality and raises questions about whether the sons of our Kurdish people in northern Iraq are enjoying security and stability. He added: The bitter reality in which Iraq's Kurds are living, the fighting between the gangs of treason and rebellion, and the cover which this force has provided for their crimes against innocent citizens is the best answer to this hollow claim.

The spokesman agreed with Talbott's statement that this force has served the U.S. imperialist interests by providing the tools and means for implementing the suspicious U.S. scheme for interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and for its plans to partition it in addition to spreading chaos and terrorism in the region.

He said: U.S. officials are once again trying to keep Turkey deceived by insinuating that it has the right to solve its problems and can eliminate the activities of the Kurdistan Workers Party with the collaboration of the secessionist and treacherous gangs in northern Iraq. He stresses that cooperation with these gangs will deepen the chaos not only in northern Iraq alone, but also in Turkey, and what is happening now is proving the credibility of Iraq's view.

The spokesman stressed that Talbott's statements were convulsive and confused because he tried to turn the facts and events that were brought about by the imperialist Hammer Force and the Turkish invasion upside down. He said: This reflects the U.S. disappointment [words indistinct] events are proceeding contrary to the U.S. plot's expectations and plans and that the chaos in northern Iraq and southern Turkey is the inevitable result of the U.S. imperialist scheme which our sons in the north have rejected.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman called on Turkey to cooperate with Iraq in order to put an end to the abnormal situation created by the U.S. imperialists and their British allies and to serve the two countries' hopes of establishing peace and stability between them.

## Ramadan: 986 'Much Worse' Than Previous Resolutions

*JN1904160295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that U.S. Resolution 986 is much worse than the unjust Resolutions 706 and 712 which were also presented by the United States, which has been working openly against the Iraqi people on the military, economic, political, and media fronts.

Addressing an extraordinary meeting of the Central Council of the General Federation of Trade Unions, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the Iraqi people have been suffering from the unjust blockade due to the continuous hostile and rancorous U.S. stands.

He added: Those who seek to maintain the blockade and to accept these poisonous resolutions to annihilate the Iraqi people were aggravated by the Iraqi people's steadfastness and determination to continue their construction and progress, to reject all that would encroach on their sovereignty, and to foil all conspiracies, including the conspiracy of Resolution 986.

He noted that the Iraqi people's rejection of this resolution constitutes a chapter in our victory in the counterattack against the United States, its allies, and agents, stressing the need to redouble efforts to increase production and to entrench self-reliance in all walks of life to continue the spirit of steadfastness and achieve a decisive victory.

During its extraordinary session, the Central Council of the General Federation of Trade Unions discussed the workers' role in the current stage in mobilizing workers to confront the recent U.S. resolution, which seeks to encroach on the unity of Iraq and its mujahid people, and to set militant plans to bolster steadfastness and achieve a final victory over the enemies of Iraq.

The workers staged an angry demonstration from the General Federation of Trade Unions headquarters to the

UN office in Baghdad. In their angry shouts, the workers denounced the wicked U.S. Resolution 986, which is aimed at encroaching on Iraq's national unity and interfering in its internal affairs.

Iraq's workers stressed their rejection of this evil resolution and its wicked contents aimed at encroaching on the Iraqis' dignity and pride for the sake of which they have sacrificed their pure blood and souls.

In letters addressed to the UN Security Council president and the UN secretary general, they called on them to assume their international responsibilities to implement justice and law and to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq by implementing Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, releasing Iraq's frozen assets, and preventing any attempt to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and to violate its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The letters called on the United Nations to exercise its international responsibilities by stopping the United States' interference in Iraq's internal affairs and its attempts to violate its independence.

### Health Minister on Negative Effects of Resolution

*NC2004095695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak has emphasized that U.S. Resolution 986 falls far short of providing Iraq with the staples, medicine, and life-saving material it needs.

In an interview carried by Iraqi television last night, Dr. Mubarak said that the above-mentioned resolution deliberately ignored the other essentials on which the Iraqi health and associated services depend.

He added that taking care of citizens' health does not mean providing medicine alone. He added that it requires other humanitarian essentials, primarily the provision of potable water, sanitary drainage facilities, and proper emergency equipment, particularly electricity generators for operating rooms.

The minister described the resolution's impossible conditions as much worse than those stipulated in Resolutions 706 and 712.

He reviewed the steps and stages that follow the import process as well as the transportation and distribution plan the resolution suggests, pointing to its effect on the validity and effectiveness of these medicines. He pointed out that it is hard to synchronize supplies with the actual medical needs in terms of timing and affirmed that the funds the resolution allocates are insufficient.

The health minister pointed out that the sanctions committee used lame excuses to obstruct Iraq's acquisition of cardiology medicines, anesthetics, aluminum needed to manufacture and maintain infants' hospital beds, and sheets and bed covers.

Dr. Mubarak demanded the implementation of Article 22 of Resolution 687 now that Iraq has honored its commitments in UN resolutions so that it can utilize its resources without restrictions or conditions.

Mentioning the ongoing commotion on the so-called agricultural substances, the minister said that the substances that Iraq imported in 1988 and 1989 were used in pathology lab tests and other experiments that were conducted in universities and health and medical institutions. He pointed out that Iraq's imports of these substances are minimal.

Dr. Mubarak called for releasing Iraq's bank assets, $4 billions, to use them in improving the Iraqi people's food and health conditions without having to issue twisted and devilish resolutions that seek to harm Iraq's sovereignty and national independence.

### Assembly Committee Rejects 'Evil' Resolution

*JN1904141995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—The National Assembly's Culture, Information, Education, and Youth Committee held a meeting under its chairman, Najah Nuri al-Samarmad, to discuss the serious dimensions of U.S. Resolution 986.

The committee hosted Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry, who presented a detailed explanation of the negative effects of the U.S. resolution. He said: The resolution is a serious precedent in international relations. It undermines Iraq's sovereignty and threatens its security and its people's unity. This is in addition to the fact that it is an evil attempt to maintain the unjust blockade.

At the end of its meeting, the committee announced its rejection of U.S. Resolution 986 because it encroaches on Iraq's national sovereignty and seeks to maintain the unjust blockade.

### Opposition Radio Attacks Regime Rejection of 986

*NC1904184095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] More than one question is being asked about Saddam's stance on the most urgent issues affecting the Iraqi people and their future—that is, lifting the economic sanctions on Iraq. Every time an opportunity arises to lift these sanctions, the Saddam regime adopts suspicious stances and practices that return the issue to square one. He orders his media mouthpieces to lay the blame on one country or another, a practice which has been repeated time and again. Despite this, the regime feigns attempts and ostensible diplomatic moves to show that it is really seeking to lift the sanctions.

Every time signs loom in the horizon that the UN economic sanctions are about to be lifted, even partially, the regime takes stances and pursues policies that arouse suspicion and controversy, giving pretexts and justifications to certain countries to postpone lifting the sanctions on our people. Consequently, our kinsfolk are subjected to further suffering, starvation, and slow death.

We do not want to give examples and figures about Saddam's policies, for they are numerous. Anyone who follows the Iraqi policies and stances will soon discover this and the picture will become crystal clear. We do not want to delve into the past. Just several weeks ago, an agreement was reached on a partial lifting of the economic embargo on Iraq. The Argentine plan proposed allowing Iraq to sell oil in return for food and medicine. The plan was highly likely to be implemented, particularly as it would allow exporting Iraqi oil in return for half of the revenue in the form of food and medicine for the Iraqi people, while the other half would be used to pay for the war losses and to cover the costs of the UN inspection committees and the committees tasked with destroying Saddam's lethal weapons. The Argentine plan was supposed to be reconsidered every three months, in the same way as the previous UN sanctions were reconsidered every two months.

As usual, however, the Iraqi regime clearly expressed its resentment of the plan. Chief Iraqi diplomat Tariq 'Aziz rejected the plan, saying that he had to refer to his government for consultations. This stance was perceived as Saddam's evasion of making a response to the plan, which he had previously rejected. When Security Council Resolution 986, which is based on this plan, was passed, the Iraqi regime officially and clownishly rejected it.

Political observers do not believe the Iraqi regime's claims that this resolution violates Iraq's sovereignty and interests. The regime has not preserved any form of sovereignty or interests for Iraq or its people. The war on Kuwait has made Iraq very much like a protectorate of the international forces. Iraq is currently at the mercy of these forces. They impose their will on Iraq and exploit its resources any way they deem appropriate. Given these facts, what are this regime's claims worth? They are merely part of its vindictive policy against our steadfast kinsfolk in (?Ba'thist) Iraq.

## Country To Boycott UN Session on Debts to Egypt

*JN1904134895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Iraq has decided not to attend the meetings of the special UN commissioners, scheduled to start in Geneva today.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has said the Iraqi Government's decision not to attend the commissioners hearing is due to a host of reservations about the new topic of discussion, which concerns the Egyptian Government's request to receive $500 million in return for certain Iraqi banks' obligations to Egyptians who were working in Iraq. The transfer of these obligations were delayed due to the comprehensive embargo imposed against Iraq. News agencies have recently reported that Jilan 'Allam, Egyptian deputy assistant foreign minister, will today leave for Geneva in a bid to recover approximately $500 million in Egyptian workers' wages, which, the Egyptian Government claims, have been frozen in Iraq since the Gulf war.

The news agencies quoted Egyptian sources as saying that Jilan 'Allam will participate in a meeting of an arbitration committee in Geneva. The United Nations formed this committee at Egypt's request.

The Egyptian sources claimed that Iraq and Egypt signed an agreement in 1989 on measures to transfer the wages of the Egyptian workers in Iraq with a maximum of $15 million every 10 days.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman denied that Iraq has frozen Egyptian assets. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said: The truth is that some Iraqi banks have failed to pay their financial obligations due to the blanket blockade imposed on Iraq.

The official Iraqi spokesman refuted claims by officials in Cairo on the formation of an arbitration committee. He said: The UN Reparations Committee, headquartered in Geneva, did not form an arbitration committee, but a special commissioners committee. This committee is not entrusted with discussing the issue of paying specific sums of money to a number of Egyptian workers, but with studying the extent of the UN Reparations Committee's powers to discuss such an issue, which has nothing to do with the Kuwait issue, especially since the Iraqi banks' failure to pay the Egyptians' remittances has been a subject of discussion between the Iraqi and Egyptian Governments since 1986.

Regarding Egyptian claims on the signing of an agreement between Baghdad and Cairo in 1989, the spokesman said: Iraq and Egypt did not sign a comprehensive agreement in 1989 on transferring the Egyptian workers' wages in Iraqi dinars to Egypt. What was signed in 1989 was the rescheduling of a payment of only $50 million, in installments, which were completely paid on 31 December 1989.

On the Commissioners Committee's powers to discuss the issue of financial arrears, the Iraqi spokesman said: This issue is not one of the tasks of the UN Reparations Committee as defined by the UN Security Council resolution and the relevant UN secretary general's reports, which were confined only to direct losses and direct damage. This issue does not constitute a direct loss or a direct damage but obligations that originated before 2 August 1990.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman reaffirmed that, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 687, this issue is not within the powers of the UN

Reparations Committee. The spokesman added that the raising of this issue by the Egyptian Government with the UN Reparations Committee has political objectives that have nothing to do with the legitimacy of the wages due to Egyptian workers in Iraq. The spokesman said that the UN Reparations Committee agreed to discuss the issue for the same reasons that prompted the Egyptian Government to present its request.

Criticizing the working formula of the committee, the spokesman said that the committee prevented Iraq from taking part in any of its work, adding that based on the rules of the international law and international precedents Iraq has many essential reservations on the working mechanism of the UN Reparations Committee. For example, the spokesman said, the UN Reparations Committee did not allow Iraq to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense, nor did it give enough time to study it [the Egyptian claim]. The committee used the time factor to embarrass Iraq and to prevent it from seeking the assistance of specialized lawyers as the Egyptian Government sought the assistance of U.S. lawyers, as mentioned in the news report.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the Egyptian Government began to prepare the request it presented to the UN Reparations Committee in June 1992. Meanwhile, Iraq was given less than two weeks, taking into consideration the administrative requirements, such as translation, typing, and correspondence.

The spokesman stressed that, for all these reasons, the government of Iraq has decided not to take part in the hearing session that will be held by the Special UN Commissioners in Geneva on 19 and 20 April and that it will be attended by the Egyptian side alone.

The spokesman expressed Iraq's conviction that the hearing session lacks a spirit of equality and justice between the Iraqi and Egyptian sides.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added that Iraq has sent messages to the chairman of the UN Reparations Committee, the executive secretary of the committee's secretariat, and the chairman of the Special UN Commissioners' Committee to explain its viewpoint in this regard.

The spokesman noted that the government of Iraq believes that the appropriate way to resolve such issue is to hold direct bilateral negotiations between the governments of Iraq and Egypt. This method, which has been used in the past, succeeded in finding practical solutions to the same problem. However, the spokesman said, the Egyptian Government did not respond to the requests made by Iraq on many occasions.

## Minister: Turkey Responsible for Invasion Results

*JN1904182795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 19 Apr (INA)—Iraq has reiterated that Turkey is fully responsible for the results of its military invasion of Iraqi territory. In a message to UN Security Council President Karel Kovanda, who is also Czechoslovakia's ambassador to the United Nations, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that Turkish warplanes have continued their serious violations of Iraqi airspace.

He said: During the period 4-10 April, these warplanes carried out 28 air sorties in which fighter planes and helicopters participated in the areas of Zakho, al-'Amadiyah, Dahuk, and Shaqlawah.

He added: While presenting these facts to the UN Security Council, the Government of the Republic of Iraq explains the serious situation resulting from Turkey's violation of the provisions of the UN Charter by encroaching on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the United Nations' failure to do its job in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter.

The foreign minister attached a list of the Turkish warplanes' violations of Iraq's airspace and their bombing operations in formations of one to nine planes, in addition to military helicopters.

## Kurdish Sources Note Partial Turkish Withdrawal

*NC1904150195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Kurdish sources have announced that in the past five days Turkey has withdrawn some of its military units from northern Iraq. Turkish forces have been operating in the area since 20 March.

In a press interview published today, the sources said that around 5,000 to 10,000 Turkish troops have been withdrawn.

The partial withdrawal of Turkish forces, whose total strength in northern Iraq is 35,000 troops, coincides with the expected meeting later today between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

## Opposition Radio Reports 'Pitched' Fighting in South

*NC1904160695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Pitched battles have been raging between our heroic mujahidin and tyrant Saddam's forces in south Iraq for several days. Stating this, Engineer Bayan Jabr, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] in Syria, told KUNA on Monday [15 April] that tyrant Saddam's forces had begun an all-out attack on the Sayqal and the al-Qubur areas located between the Governorates of al-Basrah and al-'Amarah. He noted that five brigades are taking part in the offensive. Engineer Jabr said that the Iraqi Islamic forces have killed or taken prisoner more than 40 officers and soldiers and wounded approximately 200 of the Iraqi regime forces.

Meanwhile, other SAIRI sources have said that the mujahidin confronting the Iraqi offensive routed tyrant Saddam's forces [words indistinct] after Iraqi personnel withdrew from the battlefield so as not to fight their own kinsfolk, who appreciate their great sacrifices to liberate Iraq and overthrow tyrant Saddam.

### Army Units Attack al-'Amarah Area

*NC1904153095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Military forces belonging to Saddam Husayn's regime, including some armored units, launched attacks on dozens of villages and other population centers in the al-'Amarah marshlands.

An Iraqi opposition source reported that the attacks, which began in the middle of last week and lasted a whole week, were directed against the (Abu-'Ashrah) axis opposite the (al-Sadal) and (al-Qubud) areas and along the road linking these areas with the marshlands.

No details about civilian casualties are available.

### Immediate Mecca Flights for Pilgrims Sought

*NC1904211495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Iraq has urged the Security Council's sanctions committee to immediately allow Iraqi hajj pilgrims to travel from Baghdad to hallowed Mecca by air. It also demanded that frozen Iraqi assets in Arab and foreign banks be released.

Commenting on the sanctions committee's approval of the direct air transport of Libyan pilgrims from Libya to the holy land to perform the hajj, an official source at the Culture and Information Ministry told INA today that Iraq submitted requests in the past few years asking that Iraqi hajj pilgrims be allowed to travel from Baghdad to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage. He noted that the committee, one of ill repute and one that is directly responsible for the Iraqi people's hardship, repeatedly ignored Iraq's requests.

The source blamed this committee of double standards for depriving Iraqis of the opportunity to perform the hajj over four successive years, noting that it prevented them from practicing their legitimate rights and forced thousands of them, mostly old and sick, to travel to the holy land by the land route.

The source urged the sanctions committee to allow Iraqi hajj pilgrims to travel from Baghdad to Mecca by air immediately. He repeated a previous demand to release $25 million from Iraq's frozen assets in Saudi Arabia, assets amounting to $452 million, and in Bahrain, where Iraq's assets amount to $255 million, or from Iraq's frozen assets in the United States, Britain, some European countries, and other countries, all amounting to over $3 billion, to meet the expenses of the Iraqi hajj pilgrims. He noted that the U.S. Administration, the British Government, and their mean-spirited allies have deprived these Iraqis from exercising their most basic, legitimate rights.

### U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN

*JN1404123195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1034 GMT 14 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 14 Apr (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations against U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace on observation and provocation missions, noting that the aircraft have broken the sound barrier.

In a letter sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said the aircraft conducted 467 hostile sorties between 1-10 April.

Iraq's representative asked that the letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

### Iran-Gulf Countries Relations, Politics Addressed

*95LH0086A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Jan 95 pp 40-41*

[Interview with Dr. Jamal Sind al-Suwaydi, director general of the UAE Center for Strategic Studies, by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq in Abu Dhabi; date not given: "Learning About Iran From Within"—first three paragraphs are AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In what was considered the harbinger of official activity of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Center for Strategic Studies and Research, the Center's first annual conference was held in Abu Dhabi over a four-day period. Its subject was relations between Iran and the Gulf.

The conference's subject was not the sole attraction. On the contrary, the group of specialized scholars who participated with working papers or comments gave the conference exceptional importance.

From the beginning, it was clear that the Center did not intend to submit this matter to the dazzle of media spotlights. On the contrary, its main goal was to project a panoramic view of political, economic, and social conditions in Iran and the effects of these conditions on Iran's relations with neighboring countries. Therefore, the Center held closed sessions and discussions, limited to 110 participants, in addition to a selected group of listeners that included 190 persons from the Arab Gulf states, and certain other Arabs and foreigners with interests in Iranian affairs. The secrecy that surrounded the conference's deliberations was brought up in the interview with Dr. Jamal Sind al-Suwaydi, director general of the Center, concerning the most important ideas and opinions that arose during the conference's four days.

### Use of Objectivity

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] The press and media were barred from covering conference activities, not because the discussions or studies that were presented were secret in nature. The evidence for the fact that we have been open about this from the start is that the studies and commentaries given at the conference will be published in a book in two languages, Arabic and English, and distributed, as we hoped from the start, next summer. However, the decision to close the sessions to the media had the goal of maintaining the scholarly atmosphere by which the papers and discussions were characterized and to prevent the opinions that were offered in complete freedom and objectivity from being exploited in the media. Some might have done that. Another matter was that we, as a center, wanted to retain our rights as organizers of this conference. We did not wish these rights to be infringed upon by fragmentary media coverage. We deemed it appropriate to have the research and comments be displayed in a single, integrated book that will fulfill the purpose and achieve the goal.

['Abd-al-Haqq] Apart from the formal objection concerning the ban of the media in the sessions, what were the criteria upon which selection of the conference's subject based?

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] First, I would like to correct the first part of the question. We, as a matter of fact, did not bar the media from attending the sessions. As proof of that, a number of Arab newspaper editors attended the discussions. We had invited certain editors, including the editor of AL—MAJALLAH, to attend the conference. We were keen on media persons attending, but in their capacity as dialogue participants and interested people, not as journalists, nor in an attempt to cover conference activities. This should confirm that the ban on media persons does not mean that the conference was closed or secret, especially since there were about 300 persons in attendance, both scholars and invitees.

As for the second part, in theory the conference was the first official activity of the Studies Center which, for all practical purposes, has only been established for one year. During that period, it has organized several forums and activities, and hosted certain dignitaries, such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, and Casper Weinberger, the former American secretary of defense.

The annual conference represents a principal occasion, for which preparations take a long time. Choosing Iran as the pivotal subject for the first annual conference was in harmony with the Center's goals, which include interest in subjects with a firm connection to the security of the Gulf region. The topic of Iran from that perspective was most important, in terms of Gulf security and stability.

['Abd-al-Haqq] We noted that most of the scholars were from universities in the United States. What were the criteria for choosing those scholars?

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] Selecting the scholars was a meticulous process. We took great care that each of them was knowledgeable of and had expertise in Iranian affairs. The American scholars who were chosen included Americans of Iranian origin, as well as scholars from institutes in the Netherlands, Britain, Sweden, France, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Most importantly, the conference was not limited to those scholars who presented papers, but rather, it was open to participants who could offer collective discussion. They came from many Gulf, Arab, and foreign countries. Therefore, the research that was presented in one hour was subject to continuous discussion of more than three hours, so that time was the main problem at the conference.

### International Issues

['Abd-al-Haqq] What were the most important subjects discussed at the conference?

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] The conference was divided into two segments: the first dealt with Iranian domestic issues in their social and economic dimensions; the second dealt with foreign policy issues and strategic questions. In the first category, there was concentration on Iran from the internal perspective, since we found that most of the studies and research papers dealt with Iran's foreign policy, while the domestic situation was ignored, despite the fact that these conditions are one of the factors affecting the course of Iranian foreign policy.

The conference's point of departure in discussing domestic affairs was the religious institution in Iran through a study of the question of velayat-e faqih from the historic and philosophical aspects. In view of the fact that the Shiite school relies on religious authority, it stresses the connection of the political institution with the religious institution. By that means, the scholars and participants concentrated on the struggle with the religious elite in the Iranian city of Qom and the Iraqi city of al-Najaf. For example, this discussion dealt with the reasons behind the removal of Ayatollah Montazeri, or how the premier religious authority is chosen. Later, the discussion touched on the matter of intervention between the religious and the political institutions, since two hypotheses emerged. The first was that the dispute repeatedly referred to in the Western press and media regarding the presence of moderates and extremists was only a matter of degree. No radical difference exists between those who are described as moderate and those called radicals. One example that confirms this hypothesis depicts moderates and extremists in agreement with the American attack on Iraq and the strike on Shiites in marshes [as published.] As for the second hypothesis, it was premised on the existence of a real difference between the Rafsanjani-Velayati trend and the Ayatollah Khamene'i trend. This is clearly manifested in politico-economic matters and the means of dealing with the West, as well as matters that concern the religious and political institutions and the relationship between the two. This was presented by two of the American university professors who are of Iranian origin. Dr. Roy Mottahedeh from Harvard spoke on a topic about the political dynamic in Iran, and Dr. Bahman Bakhtiari presented a paper concerning the building of the institutions of revolution.

One of the topics pertaining to the internal situation, which was dealt with in the conference, was ideological trends in Iran. This subject was presented by Dr. Mehdi Nurbakhsh. He referred to the fact that the relationship between religion and politics in Iran is oriented toward a kind of inevitable pragmatism, since it transformed Iran from revolutionary to practical relations with the outside world, because Iran can only deal with the new world order in new ways and because it cannot impose its ways on the world. According to the discussions, this change will be made through outside circumstances or by means of the pressure of various domestic circumstances. One of the Iranian domestic subjects, which was dealt with as well, was education and health and the status of women. Dr. Alice Sanasarian took on this topic, and she concluded that the state of education in Iran is not very good. Moreover, health conditions are facing many difficulties, especially preventive health care, maternity care, and pediatrics in remote villages.

In this study, the scholar expects the woman's status to improve when she acquired more freedoms. This would result, in this regard, to a decline in the number who wear the veil. There was also discussion concerning temporary marriages, since they are an insult to women and do not maintain any of their rights. Dr. Sanasarian pointed out that women activists, members of the Iranian Majles, are working to put tight restrictions on temporary marriages, aimed at abolishing this tradition in Iranian society.

### Foreign Policy

['Abd-al-Haqq] What about foreign policy matters?

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] In this regard, papers concentrated on the context of relations between domestic unrest and foreign policy and how domestic conditions affect the foreign situation. Papers presented to the conference pointed out that certain Middle East countries, if confronted with domestic unrest, would be compelled to pursue a radical and aggressive foreign policy. One example was the tension that Iran displayed vis-a-vis the issue of the islands immediately after the disturbances that occurred in the city of Meshhed.

Moreover, there was discussion concerning the relationship between the economy and policy through certain statistical indicators, which indicate that the population of Iran will reach 160 million by 2020, compared with the present figure of 70 million. The discussions touched on relations between neighboring countries and the fact that they will be strengthened economically, since dependence on the markets of neighboring countries will increase. This refers to the fact that Iranian economic problems will worsen because of unstable conditions in the nonoil market. Discussions concerning foreign policy indicated that the influence of the Iranian revolution on foreign policy will decline with the passage of years. Therefore, Iran will pursue a practical policy in its relations with the new Central Asian countries, while still pursuing an aggressive policy toward the Gulf states.

['Abd-al-Haqq] What was the most important point to arise concerning the military and strategic aspect in the Iranian situation?

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] Research in this area dealt with the Iranian Army in all its sectors, as well as the military doctrine of the Iranian Armed Forces. According to a research paper presented by Dr. Anthony Cordesman, who is a professor of security studies at Georgetown University, in spite of its possession of ballistic, biological, and chemical weapons, Iran does not have the military capability to confront the West.

In his study, he pointed out that, shortly, Iran would be capable of producing a simple nuclear bomb, and that the danger might lie in plunging the region into a nuclear race or in forcing the great powers to deploy nuclear weapons in the region. Other research was presented with regard to the military aspect by Dr. Kenneth Katzman a former strategy expert. He dealt with the relationship between the Revolution Guard and the armed forces. He indicated that the guard operates as an independent entity for those who make decisions in foreign policy, and that Guard leaders are nonprofessionals.

['Abd-al-Haqq] What was the contribution of Arab scholars to the conference?

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] A number of Gulf Arab scholars presented working papers, offered comments, or chaired sessions. They included Dr. Salih al-Mani', professor at King Sa'ud University. His paper concerned security arrangements in the region and the need for those arrangements, in light of the distrustful atmosphere that dominates relations between Iran and the Gulf states. In the discussions, there was a comment to the effect that "at a time when the Gulf states are being blamed for establishing relations with America, Iranian politicians are rebuking their government for not developing relations with the West in general, and America in particular."

Among the Arab contributions was a research paper presented by Dr. Anwar Qurqash from the UAE University. In the context of Gulf-Iranian relations, his paper concentrated on relations between Iran and the UAE in the issue of the three islands, and he reviewed the known results. Dr. Jamal al-Suwaydi participated in that discussion concerning conditions on the island of Abu Musa. During that review, the measures that Iran has taken on the island were touched upon. For example, advanced weapons and long-range Silkworm missiles have been deployed, apart from the imposition of a complete blockade on UAE presence on the island.

The scholar pointed out that these actions do not encourage any dialogue with Iran and that Iran is not attempting to resolve the problem of the islands by peaceful means. Therefore, he does not expect Iran's relations with the Gulf states to improve, if the island problem continues.

['Abd-al-Haqq] What was the conference's most important conclusion?

[Dr. al-Suwaydi] The conference reached several conclusions, including the fact that stability is extremely important, especially since the new world order depends upon regional stability. Therefore, one must try to create this stability. Another conclusion was that Iran would bear responsibility for instability by virtue of its greater size and, consequently, its behavior directly affects the confidence of its neighbors. Another conclusion was that the arms race in the region will continue so long as there are no mechanisms to build confidence. Moreover the Gulf Council must have a greater role in dealing with border problems among the member states, and it should have greater economic, political, and military importance than it currently enjoys.

In addition, Iran must refrain from interpreting the positions and policies of the Gulf states in terms of Washington's policy. Iran will make a serious mistake if it believes that it can fight America for the region. Another conclusion was that if Tehran continues to refuse to turn to the International Court of Justice, which it did over the matter of the Iranian aircraft shot down by the American Navy during the first Gulf war, as a means of resolving the question of the islands, instability will continue in the region.

## *Commentary, Analysis on State of the Arab World

*95LH0096A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Jan 95 p 6*

[Article by Mazin 'Abd al-'Aziz: "The Official Arab Scene: Consequences of the Choice and Its Merits"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is the official Arab situation in the best shape today in terms of unity, solidarity and its secondary and collective relations?

Some of the organizations shake hands with the enemy of yesteryear and sign political agreements in the same way that agreements are signed in other fields. The Arab cities and their leaders in Europe and the United States of America witness public and other meetings in which declarations are made saying that these meetings are being held between the "adversaries" of the recent past and the "friends" of today. The matter is presented in the same way in the foreign and Arab media. From time to time we see pictures of a normalization that is intended to be popular. This is the vocabulary of the official Arab style in which an ally and friend is presented today as an enemy, and in which a revised view of him is offered so that a new reading of history will replace the old. More damaging than all this is that the official Arab leaders are revising their official vocabulary out of fear of "annoying" Israel.

The official Arab leaders who are interested in the matter, or are unaware of what was previously known in the states with the ability to walk away, are packing their bags in order to perform and execute the rituals and vocabularies of their new ties with the "Israeli" Government and the "Israelis," who are trying to leave their imprint on this age. This era deserves to be "Israeli," because some are asking for Israel's friendship and seeking the assistance of Israeli power in order to satisfy their want and desire for the supposed "peace."

If the preceding is the Arab political scene, why then is this all that we see, hear, and discuss? What is happening behind the scenes and in closed rooms is maneuvering among parties who are striving and have striven to gain the friendship of Israel. In any case, was it not strange for us to see that this constitutes the distinguishing feature these days of the official rhetoric of several organizations, of whose sources and capitals we should beware? This is the same rhetoric that once portrayed Saddam Husayn as 'Abd al-Nasir because of his regional leadership and his desire to confront the Zionist enemy, and which considered Saddam Husayn's proposals and the national awakening that he is leading in Iraq as a danger that had to be confronted and contained. Under the influence of this momentous way of looking at things, the Arab political scene has collapsed on the Arab and international fronts.

The fabricated crisis of the Egyptian workers was solved through the wise initiative of the Iraqi Government. Then came the Western prohibition against allowing certain technical circles to enter Iraq, and the intentional food prohibition that accompanied it, which forced Iraq to change the sources of its imports. A widespread publicity campaign against Iraq came at the same time when much was said about Iraqi threats to Israel, while Iraq was the one who was threatened by Israel.

These challenges and others were studied at the Baghdad summit conference (May 1990), which called attention to the importance of what was happening, urged the official Arab parties at the highest levels to cooperate to counteract this, called their attention to the necessity of abandoning this type of dealing with one another, and warned them about the consequences for all of doing this.

However, the gathering dissolved without accomplishing any changes in policies or courses of action. The contrary is what happened: there was a rapid plunge into conspiracy and harmful behavior in a way that was deliberately more public than before. They wanted to punish Iraq for what it had announced at the Oman summit of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (February 1990). Iraq had to hide the lights of Jerusalem from its eyes. Then what happened happened. Iraq was forced to wage war and became isolated. The heroes of the settlement quickened their pace and ran out of breath as they dashed toward Madrid and other places and followed the path chosen by al-Sadat before them. They did not have the courage to follow in al-Sadat's footsteps until long afterward. Yet, they did not learn a lesson from his experiment and fall.

They dashed off anxiously. Things began to move, and peace opened its doors. Now, today, come, let us examine what they have harvested and what they reaped from this settlement!

On the road to the settlement that they have chosen, Palestine has only become an autonomous zone. Until now the clear sovereign powers of the autonomous zone have not been delineated. Moreover, the settlement agreements that were signed were partial, not comprehensive. Many problems remain unsolved. Solving them has been left to the future. However, crises have continued to exist among the official leaders of the Arabs. Crises, both secret and otherwise, are raging among them. Each one of the official Arab leaders suffers from a popular opposition, whose domain is expanding and whose directions are multiplying.

The Arab League is in its weakest—not strongest—position, weaker even than it was in its previous position regarding the embargo of Iraq. Is Iraq really the one who is responsible for these results, or is it Iraq's absence from the Arab arena? The settlement that they have favored is what has brought the Arab nation to this disastrous state!

We know as simple but aware citizens that official Arab rhetoric used to repeat that it was necessary not to be dragged into marginal problems. How much have important problems become marginal in that rhetoric! Everyone insists upon resolving disputes so that we can direct our efforts as rapidly as possible toward the cause of Palestine, for the sake of the battle to liberate it. Have these admonitions disappeared from official minds, the most important among them at least? Or has their decision to pursue the path of a settlement made the arrows slip from their hands so that they did not hit their targets!?

Until now it has been clear to us that the path of a peace settlement is strewn with landmines. Every future comma, like the extremely complicated technical details, includes the fear that these mines will explode. What we are seeing at this time is an attempt to follow a mistaken path in order to avoid the explosion of a bunch of landmines.

A penetrating view of history is what ascends the heights, while viewing the rocky path remains superficial and sees only one side of the scene. They fight among themselves over crumbs in ways and by means that honor no one, and collide with one another like molecules. Why has this way triumphed? When will we leave it aside? After we know what it produces? Let us return to the path proposed on more than one occasion by both Iraq and its leader. How long will the Arab nation wait to see the moment of truth through soul searching and deep self-awareness?

## *Manufacturing of Agricultural Equipment Reported

*95LH0095B Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Jan 95 p 5*

[Interview with Dr. 'Amir Al-'Any by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The freedom fighters of industry working at the General Establishment for Rubber Industries in al-Diwaniyah are making intensive, outstanding efforts in the field of developing the rubber products industry, in creating alternatives to the materials used in that industry, and in manufacturing spare tools and machines in order to keep the wheels of production moving.

When AL-JUMHURIYAH met Dr. 'Amir al-'Any, the director general of the establishment, in order to familiarize itself with its work, he said, "The method of production is very important. It will lead first of all to a quantity of production that can be increased through continuous and determined additional effort on the part of he who has the technical skills needed to break the tyrannical siege [blockade.] In order to continue production, we must work every hour without considering the time it takes."

He explained that the establishment includes two factories. The first is the tire factory in al-Diwaniyah that specializes in producing tires and pipes of almost all sizes. These tires are considered the pride of the rubber industries and are superior to foreign tires. The factory also produces connectors, which are a finished part of large tires that is placed between the tire and the rim. This factory produces the lining for metal parts and for the goods produced by the various establishments of the silk, electrical circuit, and phosphate industries, in addition to manufacturing parts and spare parts of different kinds, including the parts needed for the tractors and agricultural trucks produced by Iraqi industrial facilities.

The second factory produces rubber products in al-Najaf. It depends on the factory in al-Diwaniya. It now works at a high productive capacity to produce the fan belts for refrigerators, vehicles, and harvesters, to say nothing of other rubber products such as pipes, inflatable bicycle tires, rubber floor mats for vehicles, protective coverings, and other vehicle parts, in addition to producing containers that were imported from abroad for goods manufactured in the factory.

## Leaders Offer Aid to Clinton on Oklahoma City Blast

*TA2004043495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel has offered all possible aid following the explosion in Oklahoma City. Prime Minister Rabin and President 'Ezer Weizman sent an urgent message to President Clinton last night offering assistance. In his message, Prime Minister Rabin said he shared he grief of the President and of the American people. Rabin also spoke of the need to smash terrorism before terrorism strikes again. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has sent a similar message to Secretary of State Christopher. The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, has also been advised of Israel's offer of assistance.

## Peres Denies Presenting Stand on Border in Interview

*TA1904163895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that in his remarks yesterday he meant to say that al-Asad is demanding more than Eshkol and Begin offered at the time, adding that he does not understand what all the fuss is about. The foreign minister says that he did not express any position and that in the full interview to Israel Television, he stressed that the government must preserve a margin of time and space. No side can force the other to accept its opening positions; the negotiations are aimed at bridging the gap between the two sides. The foreign minister emphasized that he was only citing what Eshkol and Begin had proposed and did not adopt any position. Foreign Minister Peres made these remarks to our correspondent Ron Nesi'el upon his arrival at Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's home in Jerusalem to relay Passover greetings.

## Netanyahu: Any Golan Withdrawal a Threat to Security

*TA1904181195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu says the Rabin government will not stop at a Golan withdrawal. Netanyahu attacked Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks suggesting that Israel might withdraw to the international boundary on the Golan Heights. He was addressing Likud committee members at a meeting in the Golan. Netanyahu later told No'omi Segal that any withdrawal on the Golan heights would endanger Israeli security. He said Prime Minister Rabin has reneged on an earlier pledge that the Golan Heights would not be returned in a peace deal with Syria:

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] First, it said he would not discuss withdrawal before it would negotiate security arrangements. It rescinded that in short order. Second, it said that it would require as security arrangements their cutting back and cutting down the Syrian Armed Forces. Mr. Rabin on Friday rescinded that. And thirdly, they say they won't give up all of the Golan, and it is very clear from Mr. Peres' statement that he rescinded that, and Rabin is going along. So, this government has no position except obtaining a treaty at any price, and that is a very high price indeed and no peace to boot.

[Segal] What is your alternative, as opposition leader?

[Netanyahu] To say to Mr. al-Asad: We are prepared to negotiate peace, but peace means that we have to defend ourselves. If we get off the Golan, we will not defend ourselves. If you insist on a peace treaty in which we get off the Golan: No deal. If you want to talk about other areas, including various interests of Syria in the fields of security arrangements overall with Israel, in the field of Lebanon, in the field of economic and technological interests and the problem of water that is looming high for both Syria and Israel in the future, if you want to talk about all these areas for the mutual benefit of both countries: Fine. If you insist that the only thing that we can talk about is retreating from areas from which you attacked us, the answer is: No deal.

[Segal] But this has been al-Asad's, I guess, precondition: that there are such territorial concessions.

[Netanyahu] So what?

[Segal] So you are at an impasse basically.

[Netanyahu] So what? What the impasse is is that the government is in fact breaking the impasse by capitulating to al-Asad. We are not interested in peace at any price. It's been tried in this century, and we have received the greatest calamities in the history of nations. I think it's about time we learned—especially the Jewish people learned—that there is a limit to our capitulation, that there is a limit to concessions before dictators. Why should Israel give up anything? [end recording]

## Labor Argues Over Amending Platform Regarding Golan

*TA2004102495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The argument over changing Labor's party platform with regard to the Golan Heights has intensified in the wake of Minister Peres' pronouncements on the issue. Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that Labor's platform is obsolete and no longer relevant, and that nobody has the right to prevent the leadership from negotiating with Syria over the Golan Heights.

Minister Efrayim Sne said that we must ensure a defendable border and retain the water sources, but he also believes that the negotiations should not be made conditional on an amendment of Labor's party platform.

MK Avigdor Qahalani said this morning that he would vote with the Likud in favor of the draft law to make abrogation of the Golan Law conditional on a special Knesset majority. Qahalani also hinted at the possibility that the Third Way may become a political movement.

Commenting on this, MK Merom asserted that if Qahalani votes against the party's position this would constitute the first step in his departure from Labor and that Labor's party institutions should formulate a position on the matter.

### Beilin Sees South Lebanon in Terms of Syria Accord

*TA1904172295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says that if a peace agreement with Syria is signed, it will not be important who is in control of south Lebanon as long as the safety of Israel's northern residents is guaranteed. Mr. Beilin made these remarks in a meeting with the Austrian chancellor in Vienna. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz says that Beilin's remarks imply that Israel will not oppose the continuation of Syrian control over south Lebanon.

Beilin also said the Syrians are mistaken if they believe that the more time passes, the more concessions Israel will make. The Syrian prime minister is slated to arrive in Vienna next week.

### Agreement Reached With Egypt To Upgrade Arms Talks

*TA1904110895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 95 pp A1, A2*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In their latest meeting in Paris two weeks ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa agreed to upgrade the multilateral talks on arms control to the level of foreign ministers. The two decided to pursue their dialogue on the nuclear issue and to invite the foreign ministers of other countries in the region to join the deliberations of the regional working team on arms control.

The upcoming plenary session of the multilateral talks on arms control will take place in June at a yet-undetermined venue. Earlier, regional experts will convene in Helsinki as part of the "conceptual basket" of the arms control talks to draft the plenary session's agenda. Participating in the multilateral talks on arms control alongside Israel and Egypt, are Jordan, the Gulf states, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and the Palestinians.

Israel had until recently refused to comply with the Egyptian demand to discuss the nuclear issue within the framework of the multilateral talks. Peres and Musa agreed that their discussions on the issue would resume after the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty conference, which opened two days ago in New York, ends on 12 May.

The members of the Israeli delegation to the arms control talks, headed by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, were not consulted on the decision to raise the level of the talks and have not yet received a formal report about the Peres-Musa meeting and the accords reached in it. Foreign Ministry sources noted yesterday that Peres had coordinated his moves with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and received his approval of all the accords reached with the Egyptian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

### 'Ivri Said 'Furious' Over Upgrade

*TA1904184695 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first public meeting of its kind between Foreign Minister Peres and the foreign ministers of Arab countries, among them Yemen and Saudi Arabia, is slated to be held in several weeks within the framework of the multilateral arms control talks. Not everybody, however, is happy about the expected meeting. Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri is angry about the fact that the decision to hold the talks at the foreign ministers level was made without his knowledge. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin Rosen recording] Israel is not one of the countries currently discussing the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in New York. The behind-the-scenes picture, however, is somewhat different. Cracks are beginning to appear in Israel's traditional wall of opposition to a discussion of this issue. Egypt has been pressuring Israel for a long time to upgrade the level of talks being held within the framework of the multilateral arms control talks.

The defense establishment and David 'Ivri, who heads the Israeli delegation to the talks, are spearheading the opposition to this initiative. Two days ago, 'Ivri heard for the first time about Shim'on Peres and 'Amr Musa's decision to hold the upcoming session at the foreign ministers level. 'Ivri was furious, and today he took the matter up with the prime minister.

Defense establishment sources say Shim'on Peres is going to draw international attention to an issue which Israel should be extremely interested in keeping out of the headlines.

Foreign Ministry sources, however, say that everything was coordinated with the prime minister and that the upcoming meeting will be a colorful event during which the Israeli foreign minister will publicly sit together, for the first time, with the foreign ministers of Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and other countries. Even if the nuclear issue is raised, this should be no cause for concern because it is only talk, just like the current discussions in New York. [end recording]

## Document Bleak on Status of Multilateral Talks

*TA2004132895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 95 p A5*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The multilateral peace talks are in a slowdown process, with the possibility of totally collapsing." This is stated by Yo'av Biran, Foreign Ministry deputy director general for the peace process and the Middle East, in a document submitted to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the top Foreign Ministry echelon.

In his document, entitled "The Multilateral Negotiations—Where Are They Headed," Biran analyzes the progress made in the various tracks of the multilateral talks and the reasons for the stalemate over the last two months. Biran believes there are three reasons for this stalemate:

—The difficulties in the bilateral talks between Israel and the Palestinians and Israel and Syria. Arab states participating in the multilateral talks explain that this is the reason for their wariness regarding further normalization steps with Israel.

—Difficulties in financing projects initiated within the framework of the multilateral talks. Within this context Biran points out Oman, the first Gulf country that has publicly hosted an Israeli delegation, as hoping to receive funding for establishing a water desalination plant to the tune of $30 million. All the efforts to raise this money, however, have failed.

—The establishment of parallel forums have made some of the multilateral work groups redundant.

The multilateral talks started during the Moscow conference in early 1992, following the Madrid peace conference, in a bid to support the bilateral talks and to start reaping the fruits of peace.

Approximately two months ago the United States asked the United Arab Emirates to host one of the multilateral work groups, but the request was firmly rejected. The last development in the multilateral negotiations was Peres' and Musa's decision to upgrade the arms control talks to the foreign ministers' level.

In reaction to the document, Foreign Ministry sources said Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is holding an ongoing dialogue with the U.S. State Department over the future of the multilateral talks.

## Labor's Zvili Comments on Talks in PRC

*TA1904154895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili says he and Knesset Member Ori Or failed to convince China's president to cancel a proposed sale of nuclear power plants to Iraq. The two met with the Chinese president in Beijing. They also discussed the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and ways of combating it, as well as economic relations between the two countries.

## No Casualties in Firebomb Attacks; 9 Injured

*TA2004103395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Three firebombs were thrown at an Israeli vehicle driving by the village of Fir'awn near Tulkarm. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Five suspects were arrested in a search of a house close to the road. One of them was found in possession of binoculars, a knife, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] uniforms, and a bullet. A curfew was clamped on the village of Fir'awn.

Three firebombs were thrown yesterday at an Israeli truck near Bet Horon. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused in this case either.

Nine Arab youngsters were lightly injured today in a clash with the security forces in Abu-Dis, east of Jerusalem. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the youngsters, most of them students, threw stones at IDF soldiers near the Islamic College. The soldiers retaliated by firing rubber bullets and tear gas.

## Foreign Minister Addresses NPT Renewal Conference

*JN2004083195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Apr 95 pp 1, 7*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York (Petra)—The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has not succeeded in stopping the spread of nuclear wepaons and certain countries like Israel have succeeded in breaching international controls, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said Wednesday [19 April].

Delivering Jordan's address to the conference on renewing the NPT, Mr. al-Kabariti said the world should find suitable controls to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to deter the exporters as well as the importers of such weapons.

"If we consider the situation in the Middle East we find that Israel has maintained its rejection of calls to join the NPT over the past quarter of a century, despite the success of peace effotts that led to peace agreements between Egypt and Israel, Israel and the Palestinians and Jordan and Israel," he said.

Forcing Israel to sign the NPT and subjecting Israeli nuclear installations to international inspection would prevent any nuclear accidents that result in grave destructive consequences, he said.

He stressed that Israel's signing of the NPT would lead also to further progress in the Middle East peace process and a reduction in the arms race of its countries.

Such [a] move, he added, would also liberate funds which are being wasted on arms and weapons to be utilised in development.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty calls for the cretion of a nuclear-free zone and therefore Israel's signing of the NPT would be in conformity with the spirit of the peace treaty, Mr. al-Kabariti said.

Before considering the idea of extending the NPT, he said, "we should examine the original NPT's objectives and compare them with the achievements on the ground with a view to finding impediments in its way."

Nevertheless, he added, "we should stress the important role which the NPT had played over the past years, especially that the NPT has succeeded in limiting the number of nations that declared their possession of nuclear weapons."

However, the world community has succeeded in putting an end to the nuclear arms between the two superpowers as a result of ending the cold war, he said.

Noting that the NPT signed 25 years ago, aimed at achieving a total ban on all nuclear weapons, the minister noted the fact that the treaty failed so far to achieve its ultimate objectives. he expressed hope that the world community would succeed in achieving this goal by preventing production of nuclear materials.

While the nuclear arms race has been curtailed at the level of the superpowers, it was not fully realised at the regional level, said Mr. al-Kabariti. He pointed out that the existence of nuclear weapons in some countries has encouraged others to seek to possess them or to possess other kinds of weapons as is the case in the Middle East.

He expressed hope that the world community would soon conclude a comprehensive treaty on a total ban of nuclear tests, a step to be followed by a treaty on banning the production of materials used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

"Israel's intransigence and adamant refusal to sign the NPT will obstruct confidence-building measures between the nations of the Middle East and deepen the psychological barriers separating them, which would eventually abort progress so far made in the peace process," he said.

"Israel's obstinancy," he added, "would also expose the whole region to grave danger."

"Jordan believes that it would be very difficult to convince the peoples of the region of Israel's credibility and seriousness about attaining a just durable and comprehensive peace unless it signs the NPT and places its nuclear facilities under international monitoring and control," he stressed.

Noting that the U.N. General Assembly had passed 20 resolutions in the past two decades calling for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, the minister said that it is regrettable that none of these resolutions had been implemented.

Negotiations at the multi-lateral level in the peace process has also not succeeded in making any progress and in creating such [a] zone, the minister said.

In conclusion, the minister said Jordan demands that nuclear nations honour their commitments; double efforts to reach a complete ban on nuclear weapons; intensify efforts to make available nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to non-nuclear nations; provide guarantees for security to non-signatory nations to secure the effectiveness of the treaty; support the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and encourage the creation of nuclear-free- zones around the world.

Earlier, Mr. al-Kabariti said Jordan calls for dialogue at the bilateral and the multi-lateral levels for ensuring a nuclear-free- zone in the Middle East.

Jordan's clear stand in this regard, which is expressed in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, is in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning weapons of mass destruction, the minister said following a meeting here with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The two ministers reviewed ideas to formulate a unified Arab stand vis-a-vis topics on the agenda of the conference on the renewal of the NPT.

Despite an Arab League Council decision last month that Arab foreign ministers should take part in the New York conference only ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Egypt and Jordan are so far present at the meetings, Mr. al-Kabariti noted.

He said that he discussed with heads of the delegations the different issues but no agreement has yet been reached on a unified Arab stand.

Mr. al-Kabariti said that he did not believe that any country has threatened to withdraw from the NPT, stressing that Jordan was adopting a middle line, reconciling Jordan's national stand with that of the pan-Arab positions in a manner that caters to the strategic interets of the Arab World.

Mr. al-Kabariti also met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren christopher and his assistant Robert Pelletreau to discuss Jordan's stand with regard to the NPT.

He said Arab countries support the NPT but they demand that Israel should not be exempted from it.

## Meets Gore, Views Arab Stands on NPT

*JN2004073095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore in New York last night. Talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the peace process, and friendly Jordanian-U.S. relations. The meeting was held after the two officials gave their speeches at the conference currently under way in New York to review extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

Our New York correspondent 'Ali Hamati has conducted the following interview with 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti:

[Begin recording] [Hamati] Could you please sum up the bases of the Jordanian position on the NPT as expressed in Jordan's speech?

[Al-Kabariti] In fact, these bases were specified in my address. I hope the Jordanian Radio will be able to relay the basic portions, or as you said the bases of the Jordanian position.

[Hamati] Has there been coordination among Arab countries on a unified stand on the treaty?

[Al-Kabariti] There was a serious coordination attempt in order to arrive at a unified Arab position during the Arab League meetings in Cairo. Unfortunately, deliberations failed to develop a unified stand outside the framework of the statement announced in Cairo. Most of the Arab ministers who should have come to New York to attend the conference failed to report. Only the ministers of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan have attended. At any rate, I believe the Arab position will, in the final analysis, be congruent with the nonaligned states' position, which will be adopted during the Nonaligned states' meetings in Bandung next week. The position, as I said yesterday, is one of support for the treaty. However, there will be discrepancies as to the periods to which the treaty will be extended.

[Hamati] In his country's speech, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Syria will not agree to extend the NPT unless Israel joins this treaty. How would you interpret these remarks?

[Al-Kabariti] I met with Minister al-Shar' immediately after he delivered his speech and asked him about this point in particular, especially since the issue of refusing to extend the NPT is not a subject of discussion and in voting there will be no abstention from extending the NPT. What is being discussed is the periods to which the treaty will be extended and whether the extension is for an indefinite or definite period and what are the definite periods. In a nutshell, the Arab position is that no Arab country party to the treaty will withdraw from the treaty. However, there could be some differences in voting on the periods to which the treaty will be extended.

[Hamati] Many talk about the imperfectness of this treaty or in some cases about loopholes in it. In what areas do these loopholes exist?

[Al-Kabariti] Inevitably, the basic issue on which most Arab speakers will dwell is the issue of [NPT's] universality. Thus far, 178 states are party to the treaty. This figure is expected to reach 180 by the end of the conference. However, we believe Israel's departure from this world consensus is a basic and key issue. We believe that foremost of the tasks of the international community and international legitimacy is to deal with this issue, especially since peace in the Middle East is a cornerstone for world peace. [end recording]

## Emphasizes Position to U.S. Officials

*JN1904125295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a meeting held last night, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa discussed crystallizing a unified Arab position on the agenda of the conference on reviewing and extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. [passage omitted]

Replying to questions posed by reporters, al-Kabariti said: I do not think that someone has threatened, or is threatening, to withdraw from the NPT. Jordan has reconciled the Jordanian national position and pan-Arab position in a way that conforms to the strategic interests regarding pan-Arab and regional security.

The foreign minister added that he met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and discussed a number of issues with him. Discussions were completed with Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state, in a meeting that lasted two hours.

Al-Kabariti said that during the two meetings he emphasized the Jordanian position and its strategic and national justifications. The U.S. side understood the position and voiced satisfaction with the current coordination between Jordan and Egypt on the NPT issue. He added that the Arab views are close regarding the importance and objectives of the NPT and the need to enhance it and achieve its universality in addition to the need to subject it to periodic review.

Asked about the overall Arab position, al-Kabariti said: We all support the NPT, its objectives, and the need not to exempt Israel from joining it and to subject Israel's nuclear program to supervision, in addition to the need to review the NPT frequently. [passage omitted]

## King, Prime Minister Meet U.S. Military Official

*JN1904194095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We start in Amman, where his majesty the king has received at his office at the General Command Headquarters U.S. Deputy Joint Chief of Staff Lieutenant General William Owens. During the meeting, views were exchanged on a number of international issues of common interest.

Earlier today, Lt. Gen. Owens called on the prime minister's office and met with al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir. Talks dealt with bilateral ties, particularly in the military field. They also tackled regional developments in light of the peace process, upon which the premier asserted the need for a comprehensive and just settlement that guarantees the rights, security, and stability of all Middle East people.

On his part, the visiting U.S. lieutenant general voiced his country's support of Jordan to help the country in general and the Armed Forces in particular achieve more progress.

## Joint Committee With Palestinians Meets in Amman

*JN1904180395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee held meetings at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The meetings were cochaired by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and education minister; and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of culture at the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

During the meetings, the two sides discussed the distinguished relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PNA in various fields and ways of promoting them in the interest if the two fraternal peoples. The two sides reviewed the implementation of the seven agreements signed between the two sides. They discussed ways of implementing the various protocols that have been signed and the work of the committees studying the creation of executive programs in areas in which consultations are being held.

The two sides discussed what has been achieved in the fields of economy, industry, trade, transportation, mail service, telecommunications, housing, culture, sports, youth, and the exchange of expertise in the fields of cooperation between the two countries. The two sides stressed their eagerness to enhance coordination to translate the distinguished relations between the two fraternal peoples into reality. Both sides stressed the need to cement those relations, protect the interests of the two countries, and find ways to bolster those relations in the future and translate them into tangible reality and positive results lived and felt by the citizens.

The two sides stressed the need for continued cooperation and coordination to establish a just, comprehensive peace on all tracks in accordance with international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions. They also stressed that nothing should affect their relations or joint effort to protect their national interests in the face of the major challenges posed to them.

Following the meetings, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, education minister, and head of the Jordanian side to these meetings, said:

[Begin al-Rawabidah recording] Our aspiration is to push Jordanian-Palestinian relations beyond theorization and talk. We are trying to translate those relations into tangible reality lived and felt by the citizens. Since the signing of the agreements, joint committees in various specializations have been set up. Those committees worked to turn those agreements into executive programs. Today, we discussed such programs and the possibility of creating new ones in various fields. Results may not be up to aspirations, but they are steps on a long road. There are obstacles that have not emerged from the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship that are preventing the translation of those programs into tangible reality on the ground. [end recording]

For his part, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of the cultural portfolio at the PNA and head of the Palestinian side to the meetings, said:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] Several executive protocols have actually been reached and signed in implementation of the agreements. There are other executive protocols which we will complete within the next two weeks at the most. Our current meetings have been characterized by going beyond the broad outlines or bases regulating relations. We are now discussing how to apply those broad outlines as well as the obstacles facing them, as his excellency Abu-'Isam [Al-Rawabidah] said. We are discussing how, through joint action, we can overcome those obstacles. As understood, an agreement on paper is one thing and implementation is something else. Matters that have probably not been taken into consideration in advance may come up. However, the two sides are determined to continue work to implement all protocols and agreements fully and to explore what these agreements can produce to continue bolstering bilateral Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which will remain basic, distinguished, and developed relations, God willing. [end recording]

The meetings were attended on the Jordanian side by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister; Basil Jardanah, finance minister; Engineer Samir Qa'awar, minister of transportation; Salamah Hammad, minister of interior; Engineer Jamal al-Sarayirah, minister of post and telecommunications; Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur, minister of public works and housing; Nayif al-Hadid, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abdallah Madadihah, director of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department.

The meetings were attended on the Palestinian side by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, official in charge of the transportation portfolio; Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, official in charge of post and telecommunications; Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, official in charge of finance; Jamil al-Tarifi, official in charge of civilian affairs; Fu'ad Bsaysu, official in charge of the executive authority; Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, official in charge of housing; and 'Umar al-Khatib, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman.

## Chairmen Comment on Hamas

*JN1904185895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Report by political affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi from the Foreign Ministry]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee held its second meeting this year in Amman today. Today's meeting was chaired for the Jordanian side by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and education minister; and for the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture at the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] Did the committee discussed the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] issue and the acts it carries out?

[Al-Rawabidah] No discussions on such direct issues as Hamas have been raised. Hamas is a national Palestinian movement on the land of Palestine. It is part of the Palestinian order. The PNA deals with it the way it deems fit. If you are referring to the statements issued in Jordan, we in Jordan, within the framework of freedom and democracy, do not allow any behavior or acts that harms the PNA. Within the framework of freedom and democracy set by the Jordanian Government, we allow the opposition to express its views on Arab developments in general. However, we do not accept any offense to any Arab authority from Jordanian territory. We deal with such a situation within the framework of freedom and democracy in this country.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Contacts are being held with the Hamas leadership. We are discussing various issues. We believe that all Palestinian nationalist and Islamic forces share the desire to end the occupation and achieve the national Palestinian objectives and aspirations. There are issues related to the situation in areas under Palestinian authority, the need not to give [Israel] pretexts, and things like that. We are seeking to resolve such issues through dialogue. We believe that there is some understanding and progress in this field. Apart from that, his excellency brother Abu-'Isam [Al-Rawabidah] expressed Jordan's and our stand in this regard. [end recording]

To follow up the joint higher committee's meeting, several bilateral ministerial meetings will be held in Amman within the next few days to agree on executive protocols for bilateral cooperation in various fields.

## Government, Religious Leaders View Oklahoma Blast

### Al-Hariri Condemns 'Criminal Act'

*NC2004081795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0807 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has expressed his deep regret and that of the Lebanese Government for the innocent victims of the Oklahoma explosion in the United States.

Commenting on the incident, Prime Minister al-Hariri said today: This criminal act is denounced by all Lebanese who have suffered from the same bitterness many times. The Lebanese also denounce all the hands sullied by the blood of innocent people and children, regardless of their identities, objectives, and motives.

Prime Minister al-Hariri extended condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton and his administration and stressed the Lebanese people's sympathy for the U.S. people over the Oklahoma tragedy.

### Shiite Leader Denounces Bombing

*NC2004105895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1043 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, today sent a cable to the U.S. President denouncing the bombing in Oklahoma. He said: We strongly denounce and condemn the criminal bombing in Oklahoma, in which innocent people—especially children—were killed or wounded, no matter who perpetrated the crime and under whatever slogan.

## Buwayz, Pelletreau Discuss Peace, Bilateral Issues

*NC2004091095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz continued his talks with U.S. officials in New York.

Following his meeting on Tuesday [18 April] with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Buwayz met yesterday with Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs. In a dispatch from New York, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY said that the talks dealt with the peace process during which Pelletreau continued to brief Minister Buwayz on the peace process negotiations. Pelletreau expressed the U.S. determination to achieve a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israel track in the near future. The discussions also dealt with possible progress on the Lebanese track once noticeable and firm progress has been achieved in the Syrian-Israeli talks.

The two officials also discussed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Ambassador Pelletreau explained the U.S. stand on the need for the unconditional and indefinite extension of the NPT while Buwayz reiterated Lebanon's stand that calls for making this treaty a global one, particularly the need to make Israel join it. Minister Buwayz expressed Lebanon's reservations about the treaty's extension if Israel does not join it.

Minister Buwayz also raised the issue of the daily Israeli attacks on the south and the gravity of the situation. He also raised the issue of the continued and unjustified Israeli naval blockade of the southern coast and called on the United States to stop these aggressions.

The United States reiterated its stand on the issue of lifting the Arab boycott of Israel while Minister Buwayz stressed that the boycott is a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict and can only end when there is a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The talks also touched on bilateral issues. Pelletreau stressed U.S. interest in Lebanon's situation and stressed that there can be no comprehensive peace without Lebanon and that peace will not be complete if Lebanon is not part of it.

The two officials also dealt with the means of dealing with some bilateral issues. It was learned that there is a possibility of some signs to resolve the issue of the ban on Americans' travel to Lebanon in the next few weeks.

Minister Buwayz will deliver today Lebanon's speech to the NPT conference in New York.

## Fadlallah Interviewed on U.S. Policy Toward Iran

*NC1904211295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 95*

["Part one of several" of a telephone interview with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, in Beirut, by Jihad al-'Idan, in Tehran; date not given; from the "News and Reports" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Recently, there have been many U.S. and Zionist accusations leveled against Iran. In your opinion, what are the backdrop and reasons for this political and media step up?

[Fadlallah] The firm Iranian Islamic stance continues to base its strategy on the freedom of nations to determine their fate and confront global arrogance with political wisdom and alertness and a well-considered plan. Combined with this is the further point that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports Islamic movements throughout the world in many ways, such as the Jihad movement against Israel inside and outside Palestine and liberation movements in the face of American tyranny in global political activities. These stances only increase in strength, concentration, and permanence with the passage of time, particularly since the oppressed nations have started realizing that the Islamic Republic is the only state that still stands on its own two feet while retaining its loyalty to its Islamic and liberation slogans.

The Islamic Republic's stance constitutes a political problem for the United States on the one hand and Israel on the other hand, because it complicates their plans to control the region and turn it into an American-Israeli farm. This has made the United States and its foster-child Israel feel something similar to a state of political emergency in facing the Islamic Republic. They try to contain it economically and from the security aspect and attempt to distort its image politically and culturally by talking about human rights and similar issues. At the same time, the United States and Israel are afraid that this clear Islamic voice will rise, either through the Islamic religious leadership or the executive leadership, to gain the support of the masses of people.

This and similar things motivate the Israeli-U.S. campaign against Iran out of political concern and various security fears. The United States is working to make the whole world bow down to its policies, which serve its own interests at the expense of the people. It is also working to turn Israel into the strongest nation in the region. Therefore, it has not put pressure on Israel but protected it when it refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. This may be because the United States is planning in the future to make Israel, a regional country, the sixth country in the world with the right to have nuclear weapons.

We believe that these U.S.-Israeli apprehensions are the reasons behind this manic and bestial campaign. We see the political wisdom of the Islamic Republic in its opposition to global arrogance and its attempts to open up as much as possible economically and politically as a way to defeat the schemes of global arrogance, represented by the United States. The value of Islamic politics in Iran now to those who are observing it—and we are observing it carefully—lies in its taking action with a dictum—the dictum of taking its steps in the arena alertly, openly, and very carefully.

[Al-'Idan] Sayyid Fadlallah, do you believe there is a possibility of U.S. military aggression against Iran under certain reasons and pretexts?

[Fadlallah] I believe that the idea of military aggression is a whimsical idea that plays no role in political events during the current and future stages, because military aggression against Iran would cost the perpetrators a great deal. The Iranian people, who are organically bound to their leadership, are not known to give in to those who put military pressures on them. On the other hand, because of Iran's strategic location any military attack will set the whole Gulf region on fire. Therefore, I believe that the U.S. plan is to carry out a political, economic, or media attack against Iran. There is no military plan in this regard because the United States knows that such a plan stands no chance of success.

## Fadlallah Calls On Hamas, Jihad To 'Share Roles'

*NC2004064595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that Yasir 'Arafat and others will try to divide the Islamic ranks in occupied Palestine under the slogan of dialogue with one team selected from all the others. He added that this will happen by implying to that team that it represents the most important power 'Arafat's authority can talk to and that the other teams have no power and should thus be isolated.

In his weekly Koranic lesson, his eminence referred to a serious matter, namely, that Israel, the settlers, and 'Arafat's authority are engaged in an alliance against the mujahidin, using the excuse that they are against peace and self-rule. The truth of the matter is that these mujahidin are against the occupation and capitulation, he said.

Allamah Fadlallah called on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad movements to beware of this game and face it cautiously by sharing roles among them. He called on them to face 'Arafat's authority with a political awareness to make it understand that the Islamic position is united.

His eminence added: They have to know that giving up weapons means keeping mujahidin in a weak position vis-a-vis Zionist attacks and stopping the uprising against the Zionists. The land is still occupied and the reason the intifadah broke out in the first place is more reason for it to continue in order to expel the occupier from the Palestinian territories, Fadlallah said.

## Al-Shar' Addresses NPT Extension Conference

*JN1904204995 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed Syria's conviction that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] will not be able to realize its aims if all world countries, without exception, be they nuclear or non-nuclear, do not join or abide by it. This is because the global nature of the treaty is the objective criterion that gives it the necessary credibility to make it successful, realizing its assigned aims.

Al-Shar' said: Syria believes that the international community today has an important opportunity that may not recur to comprehensively revise the NPT in order to close its loopholes, end its shortcomings, and draw up a mechanism that would ensure the removal of nuclear weapons, stop their manufacture, and liquidate all stored nuclear weapons in all countries without exception.

Addressing representatives of states that are signatories to the NPT, who are holding a conference to revise and extend the Treaty at the UN headquarters in New York, a short while ago, al-Shar' wondered: How can we imagine states in a certain region abiding by a decision not to own, manufacture, or acquire nuclear weapons while one of this region's states is exempt from this commitment and while this particular state is known beyond any reasonable doubt to possess an arsenal of hundreds of nuclear bombs without being subjected to any international inspection or monitoring?

The foreign minister stated: The danger becomes compounded and the situation aggravated when this states, which is exempt from this commitment, occupies parts of the territories of its neighbors in the region, challenging legitimate international resolutions, and when it possesses and manufactures various kinds of sophisticated weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, this state claims that its security is threatened and demands gains and privileges at the expense of the security of its neighbors.

Al-Shar' asked: How is it reasonable under these conditions to ask the other states in the region, which have proven their commitment to the NPT regulations for more than 25 years, to overlook the threat that lies on their borders and in the heart of their region and to remain silent toward the refusal by Israel, the only nuclear power in the region, to join the NPT at a time when the Arab states are asked to approve the treaty's extension unconditionally and until further notice?

The foreign minister said: Statements of particular oddity have recently been made by Israeli officials who voiced the view that they would not consider the possibility of Israel joining the treaty until comprehensive peace is realized in all parts of the Middle East. Indeed, Israel's actual policies prove beyond any doubt that it is not only tying to avoid the requirements of comprehensive peace with its neighbors but is also continuing to place obstacles in the path of this peace and is insisting on effecting partial and separate solutions under the pretext that the comprehensiveness of peace as demanded by the Arabs is unacceptable and impossible as far as Israel is concerned.

Al-Shar' noted that this flagrant contradiction in Israel's stands does not stop at any limit, but also includes its ambitions and its posing as a state that is above international legitimacy. While insisting that its nuclear military program should remain outside the international mechanism to prevent nuclear proliferation, Israel opposes by all means the legitimate right of any state in the region to develop its peaceful nuclear programs, which are subject to international monitoring and inspection.

Al-Shar' said: Syria and all the fraternal Arab states have voiced their deep concern about this delicate situation in the region and have asserted through a unanimous Arab League resolution issued last March that the continuation of the Israeli nuclear program outside the international scheme of nuclear nonproliferation and Its refusal to sign the NPT or subject its nuclear facilities to the plan of comprehensive guarantees, constitutes a threat to national security and undermines the credibility and global nature of the NPT. The Arab League resolution also emphasized that consecrating the status quo represented by the abidance of the Middle East states by the nonproliferation treaty, with the exception of Israel, constitutes a serious and unacceptable inequity threatening the region's security and stability.

Al-Shar' said: Syria was among the first countries to join the NPT when it was signed in 1968. At the Paris conference on chemical weapons in 1989, Syria proposed declaring the Middle East an area free of mass destruction weapons, be they nuclear, chemical, or biological, within the framework of the United Nations.

The foreign minister said that Syria, out of its stands mentioned above and out of its concern for the region's security and stability, cannot ignore the existence of a nuclear arsenal in a state that threatens the security of the region and the future of its peoples. Al-Shar' said that Syria cannot approve the extension of the NPT unless Israel joins it and unless Israel's nuclear facilities are subjected to international monitoring.

Al-Shar' added: This Syrian stand is not based on its desire or intention to abandon the aims of this treaty but is based on its categorical opposition to the existence of nuclear weapons in our region under the gaze and within the earshot of the whole world without genuine efforts being exerted to get rid of these weapons.

Al-Shar' said: Syria would not have objected to extending the treaty had the conference suspended its work for a reasonable period of time during which all possible efforts would be exerted to realize an international harmony of views to help deal with the loopholes in the treaty and ensure its effective and global nature by having all world countries join it without exception. This is because this important treaty, which has a great effect on the fates of the peoples of the world, deserves from the conference care, wisdom, and patience before its fate is decided.

Concluding his speech, the foreign minister said: Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, realizes its responsibility toward the pan-Arab [qawmi] security and toward international peace and security and strongly adheres to realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to the global nature of the NPT, and aspires to making this globe free of wars and of all types of mass destruction weapons in the near future so that the people's of this world can coexist in peace and work for development, progress, and prosperity.

### Says Arab League Position is Clear

*MM2004134295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 95 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-HAYAH: Arab League's Position is Clear"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York—On behalf of the European Union, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe yesterday declared "absolute commitment to joint indefinite and unconditional renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has told AL-HAYAH that Syria "will never" agree to an indefinite renewal of the NPT. He reaffirmed Syria's adamant refusal to accept Israel's possession of nuclear weapons as a fait accompli.

He said: We support the "universal" character of the treaty "and we in the Arab League, at the level of foreign ministers, passed a unanimous resolution that Israel's exemption from joining the treaty and the fact that it is the only state in the Middle East in possession of nuclear weapons constitute a threat to the region's security and stability; and the Arab states cannot accept the fait accompli. Syria will therefore clearly and frankly express that position" today, Wednesday.

The Syrian minister said that renewal of the treaty while Israel refused to join it was unacceptable. On the Arab League resolution, he said: "It is not true that it allows different positions by the Arab states. It was frank and clear on the principle that extension is not possible unless Israel joins." [passage omitted]

### Paper Criticizes Big Powers' Position

*JN2004093695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the New York meetings which are designed to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: What first draws attention in these meetings is that Israel has not signed the NPT. It possesses the most sophisticated weapons of mass destruction. Israel has moved to the phase of threatening to use nuclear arms and presents unacceptable pretexts about possessing these lethal arms.

AL-THAWRAH explains that Israel's possession of these arms poses serious threats to the region and is a factor in regional instability. This is based on Israel's evasion of a just and comprehensive peace and its requirements represented by full withdrawal from the territories and the acceptance of equal [mutasawiyah] and parallel [mutawaziyah] commitments on both sides of the 4 June 1967 boundaries with regard to security arrangements.

The paper views the big powers' ignorance of Israel's position and policy as something that endangers the credible endeavors which seek a just and comprehensive peace in the region. If the international community really wants to return peace and security to this region, it should curb Israel, which possesses weapons of mass destruction, and compel it to implement all legitimate resolutions passed by the United Nations.

### AL-BA'TH Demands 'Full' Israeli Withdrawal

*JN2004082195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the statements made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres calling for changing the negotiations procedures with Syria.

The paper says: These statements are a very exposed attempt to evade both the substance of the peace process and the acceptance of what must be accepted to break this stalemate; namely, full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and the unequivocal recognition of others' rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: At first glance, it could be thought that some of the Israeli statements and positions are apparently different from one another. However, there are no actual differences between the Israeli officials. Despite the fact that their words can differ from one another, all Israeli officials converge on adherence to the policy of military supremacy, the use of force, threats to use force, and disregard of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH continues: Perhaps, the brightest proof of Israel's failure to abandon this policy is the fact that Israel rejected President Bush's initiative at first and it reluctantly went to Madrid to undermine the peace talks and practically stop them. Afterward, Israel reluctantly went to Washington not to champion the peace process but to plot against it by concluding secret, separate, and partial agreements.

This continued to be the case after the talks were resumed at the level of the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors. What calls for astonishment, however, is the fact that the United States, the party that unleashed the peace initiative, did not confront this exposed Israeli conspiracy against the peace process in a way conforming to the United States being both the reason behind Israel's survival and the only current world superpower assuming the basic responsibility for defusing wars and conflicts and entrenching international security and peace.

Concluding, the paper says: It is useless for the Israeli rulers to maneuver using different expressions such as withdrawal that depends on the nature of peace and withdrawal or gradual withdrawal from the Golan. They will not benefit from all these verbal maneuvers. In order to advance the peace process, the Tel Aviv rulers should announce, with a sense of full responsibility and commitment, their acceptance of withdrawal from all the territories they occupied in their aggression on 5 June 1967.

The rulers of Israel are deluding themselves if they think their military supremacy can last indefinitely and always place them above others' rights, above the will of the international community, and above the resolutions of international legitimacy.

These rulers should look backward a little. History has many very useful lessons for those whose arrogance of power and supremacy made them lose their minds. If the rulers of Israel do not say yes to full withdrawal, they cannot dream of regional peace, stability, and security regardless of their military supremacy and no matter how many nuclear arms they add to their arsenal.

## Afghanistan

### Paper Reports Kabul Obtains Warplanes From India

*LD1804172095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kabul administration has obtained 20 warplanes from India. The SHAHADAT newspaper writes: Citing international news agencies, the NAWA-E WAQT newspaper of Pakistan says that to fight against the Taleban, the Kabul administration obtained 20 warplanes from India last March, and subsequently brought them to Kabul. The newspaper writes that the pilots of the planes are also Indian. India has sent 15 technicians to Bagram airport to maintain the warplanes. The newspaper writes that 10 of the warplanes have been given to [Herat governor] Isma'il Khan, who has used them several times against the positions of the Taleban. The newspaper says that the warplanes include MiG-21 and FU-27 [as heard]. India wants to interfere in Afghanistan through military means.

### Council Said Preventing Filming of Bombarded Areas

*LD1904171895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supervisory Council band is trying to hide from compatriots and the world the destruction which has been caused by the fighting imposed by this band. A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul city: After the defeat of the Taleban and the fall of Kabul into the control of the Kabul administration, a number of foreign journalists wanted to visit the destruction in the areas previously controlled by the High Coordination Council. The report adds that the journalists and the cameramen have been threatened by the Supervisory Council gunmen and were prevented from taking pictures and filming in the areas. The journalists who would like to visit the area are permitted only without cameras. The Supervisory Council has been accusing over the past three years Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and the High Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan of firing rockets into Kabul city, but the areas controlled by the High Coordination Council have been razed to the ground by the bombardment and the heavy weapons fire of the Supervisory Council band. On the other hand the areas controlled by the Supervisory Council are intact. This attests to the destructive acts of the Supervisory Council which does not want its destruction to be revealed to our compatriots and the world.

### Isma'il Khan's Forces Repulse Taleban Attack

*LD1904195095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Forces of [Herat governor] Isma'il Khan have repulsed an attack by the group called the Taleban. Reports received by Radio Message of Freedom say: The group called the Taleban mounted a heavy attack, 27 Hamal of the current year [16 April], against Isma'il Khan's forces in the Farah Rud area where it faced stiff resistance from the Isma'il Khan forces. After heavy clashes the group called the Taleban was forced to retreat. The report adds that in the course of the fighting heavy losses of life and material were sustained by the belligerents. Independent news sources say that during that operation 50 members of the Taleban were killed. So far 30 dead bodies have been brought to Qandahar and 20 others are lying in the first lines at the front. Similarly eight armed men of the group called the Taleban surrendered to Isma'il Khan.

### Taleban Reportedly Reinforcing Positions

*LD1904122695 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 19, IRNA—Taleban student militia are reported busy reinforcing their positions around Shindand, informed sources told IRNA here Wednesday [19 April].

The sources said that with new military movements of Taleban, the possibility of clashes intensifying between rival groups is very high.

The warring factions in Farah province and Shindand are still in their previous positions and the situation in the area is reported calm.

According to an informed source, Talebans from time to time engage in clashes with government troops in order to prevent the spread of rumors that their positions have weakened.

On the other hand, an Afghan Government official said in mashhad, northeast Iran that some the Afghan Government have despatched 3,000 troops to Farah province to drive Talebans from the province.

Shinband and its air base are at the hands of government forces.

## India

### Rao Sends Message to Clinton on Oklahoma Blast

*BK2004085195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In the United States, crash detective teams have launched investigation into the bomb blast at Oklahoma City yesterday which claimed

31 lives. Hundreds of people are reported injured and more than 300 are missing. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has expressed deep concern and grief at the tragedy. In a message to President Clinton Mr. Rao described international terrorism with its supporters around the world as a scourge of our time.

### Joint Statement Issued at End of Rafsanjani Visit

*BK2004040195 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Iran have agreed to work together to strengthen peace and stability in the region. A joint statement issued in New Delhi at the end of the visit of the Iranian president, Mr. Rafsanjani, today, said terrorism is an impediment to the realization of this objective. The two countries are convinced that through sincere and sustained dialogue all outstanding issues in the region can be peacefully resolved. The two sides reviewed the regional situation and affirmed the importance of preservation of peace and tranquility in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. India and Iran reiterated their commitment to general and complete disarmament. The two sides also decided to speed up upcoming railway projects. They also stressed the importance of joint cooperation in enhancing mutually beneficial trade and economic linkages with the Central Asian states.

The Iranian president told a crowded press conference in New Delhi today that his country is keen on strengthening relations with India in economic and other fields. He said his government would provide all facilities for transit trade between India and the Central Asian republics. The visiting dignitary said the feasibility report on laying oil pipeline between India and Iran will be ready in two or three months. Mr. Rafsanjani said secularism as practiced by India is the best way to keep people of different religious faiths together. He favored regional cooperation to prevent interference by outside forces in the region. Mr. Rafsanjani said India, Iran, Pakistan, and China should have some kind of an understanding among themselves. Mr. Rafsanjani noted the sincere attempts being made by India to resolve the Kashmir issue. He said India has offered unconditional dialogue with Pakistan as envisaged under the Simla agreement. Mr. Rafsanjani stressed that Tehran would spare no efforts to ensure the success of the just signed trilateral agreement involving Iran, Turkmenistan, and India.

### Visit Said Causing U.S. 'Severe Heartburn'

*LD1904134095 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 19 IRNA—Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's New Delhi visit, which is being called the warmest welcome given to any visiting head of state for a very long time, has given the United States a severe heartburn.

The US treasury secretary, Robert Ruben who began his official visit to New Delhi Monday, found his visit overshadowed by President Rafsanjani's. While the Indian media covered, in the minutest detail President Rafsanjani's three-day stay, Ruben's visit was, by and large, ignored.

'HINDUSTAN TIMES', a prominent daily reports, 'the warm and unique welcome given to the Iranian president is in contrast to Robert Ruben's visit to India'. REUTER adds, Ruben, who expressed unhappiness at the clash of his visit with President Rafsanjani's, said that, if Indian authorities had informed him of President Rafsanjani's arrival, he would have rescheduled his visit.

US State Department officials in Washington confirm the story. Christiana Kelly, spokesperson for the State Department said at a press conference, after the warm welcome accorded to President Rafsanjani by Indian authorities and his wide coverage in the Indian press, we are sure that India will not be party to our anti-Iran stand.

According to a United Press report carried from New Delhi, Ruben did not have Iran on his agenda of talks with Indian authorities, but felt it necessasry to register his 'concern over Iran' in his talks with Indian Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao Tuesday. He repeated his government's allegations about Iran's nuclear 'designs'.

An Indian diplomat told IRNA that India is following an independent foreign plicy and does not agree with American views on Iran. the diplomat, who did not want to be identified added, Iran has a very important place in India's foreign policy considerations.

He also said the Narasimha Rao government is aware of the growing importance of Iran in regional and global affairs. He however said, his country will have a balanced relationship with the US.

The general response to Ruben's anger among Indian politicians, officials and other sections is one of amusement tinged with some anger.

President Rafsanjani has received not only a warm official welcome, but also popular response to his statements on Indo-Iranian ties and India's secular traditions.

A senior minister laughed when told of Ruben's reaction. 'This is Asian solidarity', he said of President Rafsanjani's successful visit.

## Commentaries View Prithvi Missle Program

### Prithvi Said at 'Dead End'

*BK1804151895 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 15 Apr 95 p 6*

[Article by Ninad D. Sheth: "Prithvi: In hibernation?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian missile posture is at an apparent dead end. The Annual Report of the ministry of defence says that "user trials of the Prithvi surface to surface missile were completed in different phases". But statements from various quarters, Indian and foreign, seem to indicate that the ambitious Indian programme has been put in deep freeze. The minister of state for defence, Mr Mallikarjun, while attending an arms expo in the Middle East, said that the Prithvi has not been deployed, and that no decision concerning its serial production has been taken. Besides, the defence budget has failed to show any commitment to the programme.

It is now becoming clear to Washington watchers, that the pressure exerted on the Indians from the USA on the missile programme has yielded at least one positive result. The programme has been slowed down almost to the point of stopping it. The success of this diplomatic effort is all the more commendable considering that Pakistan already has some numbers of the Chinese made M11 series of missiles. The American argument is two fold, the first is that the Prithvi, which is a battle field support missile with a range of 150-250 km, is an unstable weapon that is unviable given its inaccuracy if conventionally armed. The argument is that its circular error probability combined with lack of real time battlefield intelligence makes it an absurdly costly weapons, unless it is nuclear armed.

The second American argument concerns the arms race angle. It says that India should ask itself whether it will be more secure or less with such a missile, which according to them can give the best bang for the buck only if it is nuclear tipped. Will not its deployment constitute an open threat to Pakistan while providing for very little cutting edge advantage in wartime? Critics of such a posture say that they believe that the Prithvi is accurate enough to justify its use in the conventional mode and thus deploying it will not pose a nuclear threat.

Thus the debate about the Indian missile programme centres around its technological reliability. Logically then the question comes up that if all the user trials have been completed, what has been the result? Here it may be recalled that in September 1994 Lt. Gen. Khosla of the Artillery regiment had reportedly expressed satisfaction with Prithvi, and had said that it could be deployed by mid-1995. Thus if the trials were satisfactory then what is taking the government so long to deploy it? The government must tell Parliament whether or not the army staff requirements have been met in the trials. That will clear the air and bring some sound information to replace the hypothetical speculation that has determined the debate so far. In the absence of making the army staff requirements public the impression being given is that Joseph S Nye, the US assistant secretary of state [title as published] knows something that A.P.J. Abdul Kalam does not, when he says that he thinks that the Indian missiles are in hibernation.

## U.S. 'Pressure' To Halt Program Seen

*BK1804100895 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 16 Apr 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "U.S. Pressure on 'Prithvi'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The report in JANES DEFENSE WEEKLY, which is published in London, that the Government of India has wilted under constant U.S. pressure and decided to stop production of the Prithvi missile is causing great concern and agitation. This report confirms the charges leveled against the Indian Government by the opposition parties that the government is bowing to U.S. pressure in matters concerning our defense. It is quite possible that the government may strongly contradict the charge, but only contradiction will not do. Not only should the government issue a contradiction, it also should disclose the present state of Prithvi missile production and especially reveal when this missile will be inducted into our Army, which has long been eagerly awaiting its arrival. Moreover, it will be better for our Army to be equipped with the Prithvi missile early since Pakistan has already deployed missiles with a matching strike capability. The government should not care if there is U.S. pressure regarding this matter since it directly bears on our national security. Any compromise in this case would endanger our national security. Also, any wilting under U.S. pressure is likely to make the United States more audacious; it will exert more pressure and we have to be ready for that. Can't our government tell the United States in plain words that it has no right to meddle in our defense preparations nor can it tell India what to do or not do? After all, this is the serious matter of India's national security and India must prepare for its defense in conformity with our needs, capacity, and comprehension.

The Prithvi missile is the outcome of years of work by our scientists with outstanding brilliance and skill. Not only should its production continue out of respect for our scientists' dedication and talent, but the missile also should be given to the Army without any further delay. If we continue to tolerate unjustified foreign intervention in producing and using something created with our own efforts and resources, would it not be severely damaging to our independence and sovereignty? If we buckle under U.S. pressure this time in a matter concerning India's national security, most certainly we also will have to face similar pressure from other countries. It is a bitter fact that Japan also is linking financial assistance with India's missile development program.

## Article Debates Armed Forces Budget

*BK1804124295 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 18 Apr 95 p 10*

[Article by P.R. Chari: "Little tin soldiers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A major complaint is that the defence allocation for 1995-96, of [rupees] Rs 25,500 crore, only amounts to 2.43 per cent of the GDP. By contrast, Pakistan and China spend about 6.88 per cent and 5.53 per cent of their GDP on defence. It can be nobody's case that India should raise its defence expenditure to GDP ratio to gain some competitive advantage over its main adversaries. Indeed, such comparisons often conceal more than they reveal. Japan, for instance, spends slightly over 1 per cent of its GDP on its Self Defence Forces. But the size of its GDP makes this level of expenditure so huge as to cause serious anxiety world-wide. No doubt, defence expenditure can also be disguised in the budget. More importantly, defence expenditure has a nexus with security threats—external and internal—which greatly differs between nations. Nobody grudges, for instance, Israel's spending over 40 per cent of its GDP on defence, since it needs to live dangerously in the Middle East region. Therefore, comparisons of defence expenditure in terms of GDP percentages are quite fallacious, but they are useful devices to confuse the public.

The other major grievance voiced is that the current allocations do not even cater for annual inflationary pressures and will not permit even routine training and maintenance. More significantly, the modernisation programme will be adversely affected. There are several feasible solutions to cope with these problems.

A more extensive use of simulators, for instance, can reduce the costs of basic training on expensive equipment. Purists would argue that simulator training can never provide the essentially needed seat-of-the-pants realistic operational experience. But critics would also need to appreciate that simulator training, whilst undoubtedly being the next-best option, saves equipment from wear and tear and associated maintenance costs.

As regards the maintenance problems, it is a moot point whether they arise from budgetary constraints or more intractable reasons, like lack of supplies from Russia and the former republics of the Soviet Union. Some 70 per cent of the major equipment have been procured from these sources. But the present situation of these countries make the securing of supplies from them problematic.

Which brings us to the knotty question of budgetary constraints affecting the modernisation process. It is an open secret that no major defence procurements have been effected in recent years. Much of the minor acquisitions made have largely resulted from earlier contracts and purchase options. The Navy has been especially hard hit. The Chief of Naval Staff has publicly decried that non-replacement of aging vessels would lead to depletion of fleet strength and consequent gaps in the naval defence. The situation in the Air Force is similar. A large part of the MiG-21 fleet is becoming obsolete. Its 17 squadrons, incidentally provides around half the combat strength of the IAF [Indian Air Force].

With the three services being very largely equipped with ex-Soviet equipment, there are several attendant problems in effecting any radical shift to Western arms suppliers. For one, diversifying procurement sources brings on inevitable difficulties in integrating such weapon systems with ex-Soviet equipment. Besides, Western equipment would need to be paid for in foreign exchange—at market prices, and not at the "political prices" that were available earlier from the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, the technology constraint and denial regimes, constructed by the Western powers, could ensure that India does not get the weapon systems it requires. Or, their transfer could be linked to extraneous issues like India taking appropriate decisions on Intellectual Property Rights or accepting fullscope safeguards on its nuclear programme or pledging not to deploy the Prithvi missile and so on.

However, the knee-jerk reaction of local strategists to these harsh realities of the post-Cold War era has been to suggest that India should make larger investments in defence R and D [research and development] and seek autarchy in this sector. Easier said than done. India's successes in the missile area, moreover, should not blind us to the unfortunate fact that the DRDO [Defense Research Development Organization] has a checquered history. It has not shown any great alacrity with its major projects like the main Battle Tank (MBT) or the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) or Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

There is also the question of productionising major weapon systems. Assuming, for instance, that the LCA would cost a conservative Rs 25 crore apiece, one squadron would cost around Rs 500 crore, taking ground handling equipment and fast consumable spares into account. Will the DRDO bear these costs? This is clearly an illogical question, but has been suggested in the past by the IAF, in desperation, because of its budgetary difficulties. Will the IAF be able to finance the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to undertake series production of the LCA now? This question becomes relevant because most ordnance factories defence PSUs [public sector units] are woefully short of orders. This is because the services' budget has been shrunk and it is becoming in adequate to permit indents being placed for new acquisitions. The Avadi tank factory, or example, can produce some three regiments worth armour. But the Army is apparently unable to place sufficient orders for even half a squadron, leading to a serious underutilisation of installed capacity. The same fate awaits the LCA when it finally becomes available for series production.

Thus, the defence apparatus is faced with a huge pot pourri [as published] of problems. In the absence of either a critical debate in the media, or informed discussion in the Parliament, or an effort by the Ministry of Defence to shed its penchant for needless secrecy, there is little knowledge about how these problems can be tackled. The Arjun Singh Committee's report, which has opined on these issues, remains under wraps. Several efforts by the Estimates Committee and the Ministry of Defence's Standing Committee, to have the report placed on the table of the house, have not succeeded.

All that the Ministry of Defence seem to be doing is engendering a sterile debate on the inadequacy of the defence budget around this time of the year. One cold peep into the future. Assuming a modest 10 per cent annual growth rate, the defence budget would be touching Rs 40,000 crore by the turn of the century. What needs to be done is so obvious that it needs constant reiteration.

Firstly, the manpower in the Services should be reduce. The current fashion is for the Army Chief to maintain that a large proportion of his infantry in being deployed on internal security duties. This was the situation in pre—Independence India also, when the general law and order situation was somewhat better than what it is presently. Since the Army will continue to be deployed on internal security duties in future should not some part of the infantry specialise in such duties and be trained and equipped appropriately? This would save on heavy equipment requirements.

Several studies have gone into the question of how manpower reductions could be brought about in the Services, without affecting efficiency. However, nothing much has been done to implement the recommendations of these reports, except to tinker around the edges, and impress the Parliament and the public. Too many vested interests are involved to allow anything more than cosmetic reforms.

The second exercise which has become imperative in the post-Cold War era is a redefinition of the threat to national security—which is vaguely perceived to emanate from Pakistan and China, in that order. More details are necessary. Is a Two-Front war against Pakistan and China expected? Assuming this is a realistic assessment of threat, what is its precise nature? Atomic War? Or a World War II pattern conventional conflict? As occurred in 1962, 1965 and 1971? Or cross-border assistance to insurgent and terrorist activities? Or massive breakdown of law and order? A reappraisal of the threat would indicate how the armed forces should realistically be trained, maintained and modernised, with salubrious implications for economy in defence expenditure.

Wisdom dictates that these seminal issues be placed before Parliament so that they could be debated to evolve a national consensus, and proceed in a purposeful direction. The Ministry of Defence is singularly well placed at present to pursue this proposal, and push through the decisions needed. After all, the Pradhan Mantri [prime minister] is also the Raksha Mantri [defense minister].

## Iran

### 'Scores' Reportedly Injured, Killed in Tehran Riots

*TA1904170495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that the Iranian capital has witnessed widespread riots in recent days due to the deteriorating economic situation and rising fuel prices. The demonstrators tried to storm and loot shops, but the security forces intervened, causing the death and injury of scores of demonstrators.

### Ankara Embassy Denies Report on Riots

*LD1904190895 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, April 19, IRNA—Iranian Embassy in Ankara here on Wednesday [19 April] rejected a report printed in today's issue of Istanbul-based paper, CUMHURIYET on the large-scale anti-government demonstration in southern Tehran.

Issuing a statement, the embassy said that the Turkish paper has printed the report under the influence of the poisonous propaganda campaign of Western media and the terrorist groups.

The statement said, protest of a group of people against some programmes of the government is natural and such incidents happen normally in the free states.

The Western media influenced by the terrorist groups opposing Iranian Government have rather overdone it with false allegations, it said.

The statement added that the picture printed along with the report was fabricated abroad and has nothing to do with the people who had demanded economic facility.

Iranian Embassy (?also) said that AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) and the ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) of the U.S. had quoted the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) about the number of casualty in the course of the agitation in southern Tehran on April 4 which is totally without foundation.

### Islamic Court Finds 3 Guilty of Spying for U.S.

*LD1904180995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the State Supreme Court announced that three mercenary agents who spied for the United States and its accomplices during the imposed war have been found guilty in a trial in an Islamic revolution court and at the moment the Supreme Court is looking into their cases.

Speaking at a news conference today, [Supreme Court head] Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani added: Regarding a decisive approach to offenders, a description of duties is being prepared by the Supreme Courts's departments concerning supervisory responsibilities. He also said that according to a decision already made, cases such as those for spying, indecent acts, and disrupting public order will be dealt with out of turn.

### 'Thousands' Leave for 'Death to America' Rally

*LD1804134295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the threshold of the anniversary of the disgraceful defeat of America in Tabas desert in Iran, it is announced that a Death to America caravan, with thousands of people participating in it, has left for the desert. The rallies will once again celebrate the disgraceful defeat of America in its fight against Iran.

On April 25th 1980 the Great Satan America, determined to counter the iron will of the Iranian nation, invaded the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S. then faced defeat due to divine wrath. In the event the most sophisticated equipment of the U.S. stopped operating due to storm and the U.S. suffered a humiliating defeat.

### IRNA Alleges U.S. Violating Article 4 of NPT

*LD1404182895 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 14 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, April 14, IRNA—The five official nuclear powers, led by the United States, are expected to press next week for an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), even though some clearly violate the 25-year old discriminatory treaty. The most recent reported violation comes from the U.S., which is threatening to cut off aid to Russia, unless it stops building a reactor in Iran, in an effort to prevent Tehran, also a signatory of the NPT, from using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Under article four of the treaty, nuclear powers are obliged to assist countries foregoing nuclear weapons, in acquiring nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, where there are safeguards provided from international inspections regularly carried out in Iran.

Washington has instead run roughshod over the NPT by inventing false claims to use the nuclear issue in its worldwide campaign to isolate Iran, even although it has no international mandate.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Britain's major peace group, was handing in a 100,000-signature petition to the prime minister's office Thursday opposing an indefinite extension of the NPT until a new global treaty was negotiated. British officials, however, were said to be confident that an indefinite and unconditional extension would be achieved during the month-long conference in New York that begins on april 17. The forecast was that a majority of the 175 signatory countries at the meeting would be obtained, with no more than 20 states opposing.

For the past few weeks, the western nuclear powers of Britain, France and the United States, have been offering sops, like renewing pledges not to use nuclear devices against non-nuclear states, in the build-up to the renewal talks. Apart from the discriminatory nature of the treaty, which favors existing nuclear powers, the main concern of opponents are non-signatories, such as Israel, because of its violation in already stockpiling nuclear bombs.

### Commentary Examines NPT Extension Conference

*LD1804115595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1009 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The conference on examining and renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] opened yesterday at the United Nations in New York. The conference will continue for 4 weeks. During the first 3 weeks, the participants will examine the contents of the NPT, and during the last week they will discuss its temporary or permanent renewal.

On the basis of all the viewpoints which have been expressed so far in connection with the examination and renewal of the NPT, one can place the treaty's signatory countries attending the New York conference into two major groups confronting one another. The first group consists of developing countries which want to see an amendment of the treaty's contents and its renewal for another fixed period. The second group comprises the world's nuclear powers, which are resisting the amendment of the treaty's contents and wish to see it being renewed on a permanent basis.

The nuclear powers, which themselves possess extensive atomic weaponry, view the possible spread of such weapons as a threat to their own monopoly. The NPT gives official recognition to the atomic weapons of this group of countries and makes no mention of their destruction. The treaty also bans other countries from obtaining such weapons. Interpreting it as they wish, the nuclear powers, especially the United States, even go so far as to use the contents of the NPT in order to create obstacles in the way of developing countries which wish to obtain access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Whereas, according to the NPT, countries may legitimately gain access to nuclear energy under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

On the other side, developing countries refer to the unfairness of the NPT and stress that, just as non-nuclear countries have been banned from obtaining atomic weapons, steps should be taken toward the destruction of existing nuclear weapons in the world. This group of countries also wishes to see the NPT applied to all countries of the world. Despite the fact that most of the countries of the world have signed this treaty, some countries which do possess nuclear technology and weapons have refused to sign it; the Zionist regime is one of these cases.

However, according to reliable reports, although Israel possesses more than 200 nuclear warheads, it has not signed the NPT and has refused to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to supervise its nuclear activities.

In view of the threat posed by the existence of global nuclear weapons, the viewpoint of the developing countries is that there is a need for the destruction of existing nuclear weapons, there must be an end to all nuclear testing, and all the big countries must take into account the adherence of all countries to the NPT. Otherwise, even if the NPT is renewed, it will not prove very effective, just as the treaty's stated weaknesses have prevented the effective implementation of the NPT during the past 25 years.

## Rowhani Addresses Majles on U.S. 'Plots'

*NC1504094295 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Apr 95 p 2*

[From the Political Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Dr. Hasan Rowhani, the deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles addressed the open Majles session this morning, 9 April on the anniversary of the severance of relations between the Islamic system of Iran and the U.S. Government.

He said: Fifteen years ago in 1359 [year beginning 21 March 1980] the U.S. Government with the so-called Democratic Party at its helm suffered repeated defeats from our Islamic Revolution and the Iranian nation. With a most reactive policy it decided to sever diplomatic relations with Iran, which was welcomed by the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late imam and the great Iranian nation.

At that time, his eminence the imam said: "If Carter has done one thing in his life which can be considered to the benefit of the oppressed, it is his severance of relations with Iran." Later, he said: "We consider this a good omen, as this severance of relations is tantamount to a severance of all U.S. hopes regarding Iran."

Speaking on this matter, he said that the United States had tried by various ways and through various countries, as well as making overt efforts, to resume relations with Iran and to have talks with our officials. He added: This request was constantly rejected by the Islamic system of Iran. This rejection strengthened the spirit of perseverance and fortitude and imbued the nation with a new dynamism, steering it toward self-sufficiency and self-reliance. It also made the Americans realize that the independence-seeking, selfless, intelligence nation of Iran is not one that can be made to deviate from its path and such decisions are quite ineffective. On the contrary, it served to inspire the people with greater joy and resilience.

Dr. Rowhani recalled that today the U.S. Government and the Democrats are once again testing their past unsuccessful experiences, and said: On 13 April last year, Clinton announced a national emergency situation, saying that the Iranian Government is an extraordinary and serious threat for the U.S. national security and foreign policy and announced a ban on development of Iran's oil resources for the Americans.

On the issue of the embargo on the purchase of oil from Iran, he said: There is no doubt that the approach of the U.S. presidential election campaign and the intense rivalry between the two factions are among the factors for such policies and propaganda. He added: The Democrats have not been able to fulfill even one of the promises that they had made to the American people during their campaigns.

The deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles alluded to the consecutive instances of the United States being humiliated on the economic and political level on the international plane, and said: Another source of disgrace and humiliation for the U.S. echelons was in 1994 when U.S. purchases of oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran were officially announced, which resulted in much discredit and a propagandist outcry for the Americans inside the United States and in Europe as well as in all the countries of the world.

In this regard, he referred to the humiliation at the hands of the American firm CONOCO, which had entered into talks with the Iranian oil company, and said: The announcement of the signing of this agreement generated such a propaganda uproar in the United States and especially in Europe against the U.S. Administration, which forced it to resort to illogical actions.

The Majles deputy speaker referred to the fact that in view of the friends that Iran has on the international level, U.S. threats and plots are ineffective. He said: There is no need to elaborate on the various hollow, baseless, and repetitive accusations against Iran by the United States which were reiterated recently such as the issue of gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, human rights violations, assisting terrorist groups, obstructing the peace process and so on. Our stances have been clearly announced by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: There have been accusations of efforts to acquire nuclear weapons against a country which is a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], even though in recent months Iran has been actively lobbying for the NPT's extension. Iran has also given the International Atomic Energy Association a free hand to visit our country for inspection. Iranians are themselves the greatest victims of chemical weapons and Iran is itself one of the main signatories of the convention for a ban on the use and production of chemical weapons and has played a very prominent role in this regard. Our country did not retaliate tit-for-tat during the war when chemical weapons were used against us and did not endeavor to manufacture such weapons, either.

He continued: These accusations are being made by the country which is itself a supporter of Israel, which has nuclear weapons and has not signed the NPT; which has itself provided the necessary means and equipment for the manufacture of nuclear arms to Israel. Such accusations against us do not have any impact whatsoever. To accuse of human rights violations a country where 50 days after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, widespread countrywide elections were held and every year a major election is held, seems rather illogical.

Elaborating on the U.S. "peace process," Dr. Rowhani continued his remarks thus: What is being considered the defeat of the United States and the West with regard to the so-called Middle East peace process is due to its nature. This plan is inherently tyrannical, as it does not ensure the rights of the Palestinians. They should seek the root cause of the problem. The Palestinians are an alert nation and are not prepared to be ensnared by such toys and relinquish their hallowed aspirations.

He added: The Middle East plan can only be successful if it is based on the return of everyone to their homeland. He expressed the hope that the U.S. echelons would learn from their unsuccessful experiences with the Islamic Republic of Iran and would accept the realities and the Islamic Revolution.

In conclusion, Dr. Rowhani paid tribute to the memory of the talented basiji artist of "Revayat-e Fath" [meaning "Narrative of Victory"—documentary on war] fame, Seyyed Morteza Avini on the second anniversary of his martyrdom.

### Khamene'i: 'We Are Not Warmongers'

*LD1904163395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[Speech by "Ayatollah" Ali Khamene'i to army personnel on 19 April; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Welcome dear brothers, you, who have endured the most momentous and difficult events in the recent history of our dear country of Iran. [passage omitted]

The army has been the arena of battle between Islam and blasphemy and, in this battle, it has been Islam that has emerged victorious, beating blasphemy to the ground. Thus, praise be to God, today, our army is stronger, better organized, and more revolutionary and religious than at any other time during the 16-year period of the revolution. It is important to note that, throughout these 16 years, the enemy has constantly tried to undermine the morale of the army through propaganda, to make them lose their hope in the future. At one time, they said: Gentlemen, they want to dismantle the army. At another time, they said: They are going to transfer the army's ground force to the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps [IRGC]. At another time, they said: They are going to place revolution guards at the head of the army. All this was aimed at undermining morale. Once they said: Gentlemen, they will first use the army and then throw it away. They have said such things again and again. Well, how strong does someone's morale have to be to stand up to all this propaganda? What other strata of the population had to withstand so many enemy attacks and blows and stood up to it with such strength? [passage omitted]

Today is the day when all those conspiracies have come to an end. That is to say, the time for such conspiracies has come to an end—there are still conspiracies, but they do not stand a chance. The army and the IRGC are two brothers, two powerful hands and two strong arms, with clear and separate missions and responsibilities, each carrying out their own task. The army's mission is clearly defined and identified. The IRGC's mission is defined, identified, and specified. And both of them need each other. Neither is complete without the other and both have their own tasks.

A better way of putting it, a way more in keeping with the Koran, is to say: They are two competitors in the path of God, two competitors on the path to [God's] forgiveness and mercy. Be quick in the race, for forgiveness from your Lord. [Last sentence Koranic verse in Arabic] Race! That is what I was referring to. One of them takes a positive step forward, and that encourages the other. The other one takes a positive step, the other one gains in enthusiasm. They both try to outdo the other in their good deeds. This is the good competition I meant, positive competition. I advise the army and the IRGC to engage in this positive competition.

Look to see what good initiatives they [the IRGC] are adopting to run their affairs better, to make themselves more effective. Then, do the same but even better. They can look at you to see what plans you have adopted to improve your work. They can learn it from you and carry it out in an even better way themselves. This is the correct way. This is the Islamic and Koranic way. The Koran approves of this and endorses it.

I spoke of the past so that we can understand the future. My dear ones, the army bears a heavy responsibility. It may be that no enemy will dare attack our frontiers for the next 50 years. That will probably be the case. The eight year long [Iran-Iraq] war imposed on us demonstrated that there is no benefit to be gained from fighting with Iran. When it does happen that there is a battlefield, the entire nation will enter the field side by side with the armed forces and the official organizations. Perhaps no war will arise because of that past experience. However, the armed forces must be ready as if a war were to start tomorrow. They must always be vigilant. [passage omitted] A man of war must never sleep. If you sleep, there is no guarantee that your enemy on the other side of the trench is also asleep. You must remain awake!

We may not have to fight in another war again. This is my own prediction too. However, one of the factors securing the realization of this [prediction] is the readiness of the armed forces. Bear this in mind. Laxity of the armed forces personnel will encourage the enemy to wage a war. Whereas, your steadfastness, resistance, discipline, readiness, initiative, and your high morale will bring hesitation even to the heart of an enemy who is determined to wage a war against you. Your must, therefore, remain prepared.

The American nonsense-talkers should not repeat everywhere that Iran is planning to wage a war and explode an atomic bomb. Such remarks are old rhetoric. Such talk is obsolete nonsense. But they do not care that such talks are obsolete and continue uttering nonsense. Let them do so.

We are not warmongers. We are against warmongering in accordance with our doctrine. Our principles demand that we must spread the message of friendship, peace, kindness, security, and tranquillity. Why is it so? Because we have something to say. Those who have nothing to say, wish to see a chaotic atmosphere so that no one can hear anyone else; so that no one knows what is being said. Those who are bullies and plunder others, wish to see disorder so that they can plunder freely. Anyone who has something rational to say, wishes to see a quiet atmosphere, where everyone is silent to hear his rational words.

We have something rational to say. We have a message. The reason for this is that 16 years after our revolution, our enemies are still accusing us of planning to export the revolution. What do they meaning by the export? As if the revolution is a commodity to be packaged for export! They are afraid of what we have to say. They will not even allow one of the logical speeches of the Islamic Republic authorities to be broadcast to the world. None of these remarks are reflected or printed in the famous world press. Why is it so? Because they are afraid.

I remember once, the late son of the illustrious imam [Khomeyni's son, Ahmad] was thinking of publishing the imam's hajj message in one of the western newspapers. He was offering a large sum of money. Despite being the slaves of money, they refused. If you offer them money, they would not mind you plundering their spiritual values. To them money is everything. Money is their faith, their zeal, and their religion. Nevertheless, they refused to publish the message. This is because their intelligence service realised that the imam's message would explode there like a bomb. They are opposed to our words. They are frightened of our remarks. It is natural that we seek peace, tranquillity, security, and stability because we have something to say. It is obvious that we are not warmongers.

However, the fact that we are not warmongers does not mean our enemy is not a warmonger either. We must be ready. And readiness should be as follows: First, make your organizations as strong as possible. The main objective is to train the manpower with better organization. The managers should attach importance to the issue of organization. In the armed forces organization comes with particular order and discipline.

Second: Attach important to the quality of the manpower. The manpower requires constant updating of its spiritual values. Do not abandon a unit, both in the army cadre and among the conscripts, without providing them with constant spiritual support. In the first place this is a duty of the army's religio-political organization. I am not saying they should attend classes. You must talk to them, advise them and boost their morale. These things cannot be learned by attending classes. These things come with faith. [passage omitted]

The next issue is the provision of equipment. The equipment that you require, particularly the equipment of the greatest need, should be manufactured domestically. This should be your aim. [passage omitted]

We are not planning to increase the number of the armed forces personnel for the time being. There is no need. Praise be to God, there are sufficient numbers of army personnel and there is no need to increase the quantity. However, there is no limit on improving the quality. The more you improve the quality of the armed forces, the better. You can never exceed the limit. These are necessary [objectives] for the future.

You should realize that you are part of the nation and the nation is part of you. You are from Islam and Islam belongs to you. The armed forces personnel are today proud of being the soldiers of the Lord of the Era ["hidden" imam]. [shouts of approval from the crowd]. You are soldiers of the Lord of the Era, and are working to realize the goals of his holiness. You should be proud of this fact and grateful for the rest of your life. May you serve in his holiness's army too, God willing. May God grant martyrdom to all of us and to those who are eager to gain the exalted status of martyrdom. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

## President Warns Against U.S. 'Adventurism'

*LD1504122795 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 15 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—The White House should know that as far as Irano-U.S. policy is concerned, "the Islamic Republic will pay back the same coin it has received because it will not cower to intimidation and blackmail," wrote morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial here on Saturday [14 April].

Referring to the "stinging reply" of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the U.S. blackmail against Iran, the English-language daily echoed the Iranian president's warning that American adventurism would not achieve its desired effects.

Last month the U.S. President, Bill Clinton, signed an executive order forbidding U.S. companies and their subsidiaries from participating in oil and gas projects in Iran.

President Rafsanjani's statement, containing one of the strongest warnings against Washington's stepped-up campaign against Iran, also expressed in unmistakable terms the Islamic republic's firm belief in coexistence which called for mutual respect and non-inreference in countries' internal affairs - time-honoured principles which are bases of foregin policy as embodied in the Iranian constitution, said the daily.

It added "the president hit the nail on its head when he exposed the motive of the United States in seeking to establish economic ties with Iran while clumsily putting pressure on other countries to break off ties with the Islamic republic."

In its futile efforts to isolate Iran economically and politically, wrote the paper, the U.S.' own irrational policies have only served to widen its credibility gap.

Noting that since Washington broke off relations with Iran in 1980, U.S. has dismally failed to isolate the Islamic republic and make it abandon the ideals of its revolution, the paper asked the U.S. administration to ponder on the statements of President Rafsanjani, in the light of the Islamic republic's headstrong decision to confront the adversary by, if necessary, breaking off economic ties completely.

"It is a call to the U.S. and other hostile countries for a realistic assessment of past mistakes, by accepting a sincere offer to think twice before acting against Iran.

"Iran's offer of friendship is open to all, except the Zionist regime, on the same basic principles enshrined in the constitution," stressed the paper.

However, it noted, the American people could not be made accountable for the mistakes made by their leaders. The Islamic republic made it clear that it was not against them (Americans) in its righteous indignation against their erratic and adventurous policymakers, concluded the paper.

## Radio: Nation's Support Offsets U.S. Acts

*LD1704125295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 17 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the publication of the president's important statement about the new U.S. acts of adventurism, the extensive presence and support of the people for the revolution once again manifests itself as the main feature of the Islamic revolution, with political and religious organizations, university and seminary students, and various institutions holding rallies and issuing statements and resolutions expressing their opposition to America's hostile policies.

Having failed to prevent the occurrence and victory of the Islamic revolution or to cause the slightest disruption to its progress, the United States has embarked on a not verynew ploy called economic sanctions in the hope of stopping Islamic Iran from becoming ever stronger. That which has caused the United States to sink ever deeper into the swamp of enmity against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and which led to the failure of one conspiracy after another, is its ignorance about the nature of the Islamic revolution and its points of strength. One of these points is a strong popular presence and participation. This popular presence and support—being the most prominent feature of the Islamic revolution—has protected our system in various circumstances, including war, political isolation, propaganda attacks, and various political and economic pressures, thus helping it to escape unscathed.

In reality, the United States is today trying to impose economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic, hoping to make life difficult for Iran in circumstances in which it knows that, in the early years of the revolution, it was defeated by popular resistance. The great and resistant Iranian nation rose up in defense of its Islamic realm at a time when it was facing sanctions in the fields of politics, economics, and arms purchases. This same nation has also travelled the path of reconstruction, with good progress, despite similar limitations; so that, in their speeches and interviews, U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed anxiety about Iran's economic progress.

The Iranian nation, which is aware of the importance and effectiveness of its presence and has demonstrated its presence at sensitive junctures in the course of the revolution, has, through its extensive support for the president's critical statement, shown that it is still determined to prolong the revolution and protect the system, despite all the conspiracies and difficulties. It is, in fact, with reliance on this vast popular support, that the president said in his statement: Today, Iran is not the arena for the United States to indulge in new adventurism.

## Organizations Support President's View on U.S.

*LD1604182095 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 16 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—A number of institutions and political organizations Sunday [16 April] issued statements in support for last Thursday's communique of President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Islamic Propagation Organization said in its statement that it expected the leaders of Friday congregational prayers throughout Iran to invite the people to stand against the devices of the United States.

It called on all institutions, organs and Islamic associations to call on the hizbullah masses to offer more contribution to the construction efforts in the country.

The Islamic Association of High School Students also issued a statement here Sunday in support of the president's communique saying that the communique of the president was a crushing response to the adventurism of the weak administration in Washington which always tends to threaten other governments.

The Islamic Association of Students of Food Science also declared its readiness to do every act of self-sacrifice for materializing the goals of the revolution.

Also the Foundation of the Deprived and Disabled supported the communique of the president saying the men in the White House must realize that Islamic Iran would never sucummb to their threats.

## Commentaries Mark Anniversary of Severed U.S. Ties

### Struggles Against 'Great Satan' Viewed

*NC1704095695 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Apr 95 pp 1, 12*

[Editorial: "The Terrified Should Be Repulsed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 20 Farvardin [9 April] we marked 15 years since the severance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ties with America. A brief assessment of this period shows that this action has been 100 percent beneficial to the Islamic Republic system and to the revolutionary aspirations of the Iranian nation.

—During this period, it has been proven that if a nation wills it can stand up to the biggest bully and tread its independent path. This is what the Iranian nation has done and this is how Iran is being run, despite the strong political dependence that it had on America before the Islamic Revolution.

—The Iranian nation's pitiless struggles against America's various plots and the great victories that it has scored in these struggles have shown that the invincibility of America and of the other satanic powers is nothing but a myth and that the determining factor is the will of nations for freedom and for living independently.

—Our persistent and largely successful efforts to achieve self- sufficiency and to cut off economic dependency constitute yet another outcome of the severance of our ties with America. This fact has proven that contrary to the West's misleading propaganda, not only can we live without depending on the West, we can also achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence, and thus preserve our greatness and grandeur.

—These priceless experiences have been able to teach important lessons to the nations. The further awakening of nations and the growth of freedom-seeking movements throughout the world, which have made things difficult for the colonialists and especially America, are among the direct outcomes of the revolutionary Iranian nation's persistent and victorious struggles against America, which has come to be identified by the world public as the great Satan, thanks to the initiative of the imam. And it is precisely this point that has enraged the great Satan.

We should cherish this priceless experience. We should not allow those who have a desire for trade with America, others who come into contact with America on the pretext of sports, those who propound illogical justifications, and especially the terrified to mar the grandeur of this noble and devoted nation. America continues to be the "great Satan" and has not changed in any way. The propaganda, political, and economic plots that have been hatched in the past month by the American statesmen against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the mischief perpetrated by it against Iran during the past few months are the best proof of all this. Therefore, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran should repulse the terrified and continue the policy of fighting against the great Satan.

### Daily Assesses Relations With U.S.

*NC2004074595 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Apr 95 pp 8, 7*

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "Relations or No Relations?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The date 9 April coincides with the 16th anniversary of the severance of relations with the United States, which took place a few months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. [passage omitted]

In the past 16 years, the domestic situations in Iran and the United States, as well as their international relations, underwent a basic change and most of international balances were transformed completely. However, what has remained in full strength is the conflict and political divergence in the national interests and objectives of the two countries in relation to one another, whether on the level of bilateral relations or on the regional and international level.

Such conflict stems from persistent anti-American sentiments from the Iranian nation. This results in a logical and principled perception by the Iranian Government and nation regarding circumstances prevailing in the world and in the relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The issues and viewpoints considered in this regard, and the level of relations between the two countries at the present juncture, merit analysis:

There is no doubt that an assessment of the present viewpoints of the intelligentsia and well-versed individuals on relations between Iran and the United States, as well as present alternatives in bilateral relations, would help this issue.

Currently, different, and at times contradictory views exist regarding relations between Iran and the United States among Iranian politicians and academics. Each of these views is interpreted differently by these individuals and group against the backdrop of prevailing world situations in general and the relations between Iran and the United States in particular.

1. The proponents of the notion that generic "relations" and "dependence" are synonymous, who consider this application as compulsory in relations with developed and non-developed countries.

2. Those who subscribe to the belief that forging relations does not imply dependence under all circumstances.

Some of the thinkers and politicians in our society believe that the superior economic strength of the United States and all other large countries over Third World countries, including Iran, and their vast experience in economics, forging relations between undeveloped countries, including Iran, and large, developed countries, including the United States, will culminate in the establishment of a kind of a domineering and forced inequality which may harm undeveloped countries.

Proponents of this school of thought—some of whom do not differentiate between the United States and any other great power in this equation—believe that the slightest contact through such a relationship will spread like a cancer to all the other aspects of such a bilateral relationship and it would not be easy to extricate oneself.

Some other knowledgeable and enlightened scholars of Iran-U.S. relations defend the previous opinion and negate the establishment of Tehran-Washington relations with the argument that the United States is an arrogant and hegemonic power. These scholars advocate that all contact between the two countries at the current time and place should be avoided.

In view of the progress of international communications, and by the many human needs met through accepting the principle of "eliminating all domestic needs by means of reliance on indigenous resources," it is difficult to defend this viewpoint. Today, and despite the emergence of "reciprocal dependence," which includes negotiation and recognizing and eliminating human needs based on needs and resources of every country, it is natural that bilateral or multilateral relations that meet those needs should be antithetical to accepting this perception.

What merits attention is that the nature of relations and their level is also a decisive factor. This has bred another group of scholars of foreign policy and issues pertaining to Iranian-U.S. relations and has given rise to differences within the group as well. [passage omitted]

One of the current reasons against establishing relations with the United States by some schools of thought—and one which most of the scholars of foreign policy in our society hardly disagree with—is the issue of the influence of countries such as the United States and Britain on Iranian society. The United States and Britain have precedent based on decades of colonial relations with Third World societies, including Iran, and the scope for resuming and establishing tyrannical relations through utilizing new and current methods, as opposed to relations with Western countries such as Germany and France. With this past record, they have not forgotten how to nurture, train, and retain scholars and academics as expedient, even within the Third World countries, including Iran. They have begun preparing their forces for this purpose and it can be said that the deep annoyance of the believers in the policy of not having relations with the United States stems from fear of the influence of countries such as the United States and Britain in Iran. This has had a serious impact on their vantage point regarding severance of relations with the United States.

Some other foreign policy experts believe that currently, and after sustaining 16 years of losses stemming from a severance of ties between the two countries, the circumstances prevailing in the two countries, and in the world in general, are such that there is a need to forge relations. These experts repeat the proviso that this should not imply the acceptance of dependence. Along these lines, there is a dichotomy of thought among the proponents of this viewpoint of "multifaceted relations" and "commercial relations."

The most important point, according to those who advocate the theory of "multifaceted relations with the United States," is that currently, giving priority to establishing relations by minimizing tension and resolving differences should be done in conjunction with Iran. According to those who support this theory—and they are few and far between, or they do not express their thoughts openly for fear of negative reaction—forging relations with Washington could provide a format for direct talks and for eliminating tension between the two sides, without any intermediaries and could thus facilitate ending all mutual differences and defusing tension.

Those who support this policy believe that establishing relations with the United States is not synonymous with relinquishing the struggle against colonialism, an objective of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. They believe this could create conditions in which the demands of the two sides could be presented completely and with greater clarity.

Some who support this viewpoint and who have openly expressed their ideas believe that establishing relations with the United States in current circumstances is practical and scientific. This group insists that continuing the policy of goodwill and refraining from so-called tension-seeking in the region is necessary for relations with the United States. Of course, it appears that in view of the anti-American sentiments among people in our society which originated following many years of domineering U.S. relations with our people, this viewpoint will not gain ground for a long time.

The other group that supports the concept of the necessity of relations with the United States now is that which favors only commercial relations, not political or multifaceted ones. In contrast to the first group, which advocates political and commercial relations with the United States, this group rules out political relations in view of the inclinations and leanings of the two sides, which remain irreconcilable and which do not consider the time suitable enough for such relations. However, they consider trade relations to be harmless and in some instances, even necessary. [passage omitted]

After reviewing the country's various viewpoints regarding establishing relations with the United States, we can look at some of the existing issues and related questions and ambiguities from a better perspective:

It is better to view this issue by identifying the present differences regarding the need for international relations, rejecting the idea that relations mean forced dependence. It is better to address other differences, that is, to consider whether relations should be forged now or not.

As previously mentioned, the supporters of avoiding relations with the United States base their opinion on the hostile conduct and policy of the United States. They see this as the fundamental principle for relations between two countries which has not changed in the past 16 years. It has even intensified.

Regarding this, the two groups, those favoring diplomatic relations and those favoring commercial relations, must be separate. We note the changes that each one has undergone in the past 16 years. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that accepting political and economic relations with the United States necessitates accepting the subsequent repercussions and implications of such relations. Naturally, this may be accomplished in two ways: Either the United States relinquishes its arrogant policies in the world, with Iran in particular, or Iran forfeits its values and principles.

Existing facts and figures, right up to the time of this writing, indicate that the United States is at odds with other countries on cooperation with Iran. This plot proves that no changes are perceived in U.S. policy or conduct. If we were to believe in the multifaceted relations between two countries, then Iran would need to forsake its principles and that would contradict the Iranian nation, which has not and will not display any such intentions.

In such circumstances, how will it be possible for proponents of U.S. relations to maintain our national interests? How will the ideological values of our society remain untainted as long as the interests and values of both societies are irreconcilably opposed? The following are examples to help clarify the matter:

In the past 16 years the principled defense of the Palestinian nation, the aspiration of the liberation of holy Jerusalem, and the destruction of Israel have been considered part and parcel of our national interests and values. We have remained faithful to this, not only for the Palestinian nation, but to adhere to our principles.

Now, if we were to forge multifaceted relations with the United States, that is, as the proponents of this notion believe, can we have relations with a supporter of Israel? Can we participate in the process of compromise in the region, and in the security balances under U.S. leadership, while at the same time demanding Israel's annihilation? Does America always defend Israel as a basic principle of its national interest?

Thus, on the basis of this logic, we cannot be part of a system and at the same time strive for its destruction. Every part of a system should benefit from the preservation, perpetuation and progress of that particular system and not for its destruction. [passage omitted]

The greatest argument against supporting commercial relations with the United States is the lack of desire on the part of the United States to broaden these relations. The insistence of some key U.S. decisionmakers to nullify the CONOCO oil deal is an example. Thus, we can reason that even if some of our foreign policy scholars supported broadening commercial relations between the Governments of Iran and the United States with or without intermediaries, it is not supported by decisionmakers in the United States. The United States is even prepared to ignore its economic, industrial, and commercial interests for more important strategic interests such as the isolation of Iran, or in the words of the White House, "the containment of Iran."

On the other hand, a glance at the fate of Eastern Europe and nations that were once the enemies of the United States but ended their hostility, lends interesting observations which are a lesson to those who lobby for multifaceted relations with the United States. It appears that the United States only invests in the opposition until that opposition gives in to the United States, after which it does not consider itself responsible.

Now the question to the supporters of multifaceted relations with the United States is: What are they after? Has the United States assisted those nations which abandoned their animosity toward the United States in achieving their objectives? Has it given them any special gift? The fate of East Europe, as well as some others proves to the contrary. They forfeited their enmity toward the United States and did they not gain anything in return. The U.S. paradise proved a mere mirage.

## Paper Says U.S. Policies 'Doomed To Fail'

*NC1804120395 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Apr 95 p 2*

[Commentary by Hamed: "U.S. Foreign Policy in the Vortex of Zionism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a two-day conference on Iran held in occupied Palestine, speakers raised topics that revealed the nature of the extensive global anti-Iranian propaganda and its major engineers. During the conference, one of the members of the Zionist regime said: "A nuclear Iran will try to occupy the Persian Gulf in order to control the world flow of oil." (!)

Of course Mr. Yuri Lubrani [spelling as transliterated], former Zionist ambassador in Tehran who said the above, left one question unanswered: At the peak of Iraq's imposed war and its extensive confrontation with the aggressive American forces, why did Iran continue to insist on the need to create security for the flow of oil in the Persian Gulf?

Zionist Health Minister Efrayim Sne went even further during the conference and overtly demanded the annihilation of Iran!

He said: "The possibility of annihilating Iran is much more than trying to prevent Tehran from acquiring the nuclear weapon." But the question that rises is: Why has the Zionist regime undertaken the leadership of the world against Iran and why is it directly and indirectly directing world public opinion against Iran?

America's overt animosity toward Iran, which is contrary to diplomatic practice, is even more interesting than this. American officials—from the President to the secretary of state—use each and every platform to express their opposition and hostility to Iran and do their best to confront Tehran. There are many reasons for this enmity. But the significant point is that three major issues come to light in this process:

The first is that for various reasons, the Zionist regime has given top priority in its foreign policy to confrontation with the Islamic Revolution. Efforts to shift the crisis between the Arabs and the Zionist regime to the Persian Gulf, efforts to complete the compromise process with the Palestinians and to achieve a favorable end to the Middle East crisis, and efforts to create a new array of forces against Tehran in the region explain the reasons for this political behavior of the regime occupying Jerusalem at this juncture. Moreover, by propounding the imaginary threat of Iran in world public opinion, the Zionist regime intends to expand the anti-Iranian wave so that it can achieve its ends.

The second point is that this enmity brings to light the fact that the world is now well-aware that the foreign policy of the United States of America has become an adjunct of the general policy of the Zionist regime and that it is the Zionist lobby in the United States that determines Washington's political behavior toward Tehran. It is very surprising and educational for the world to see how the American Administration is behaving toward Islamic Iran exactly according to what the Zionist regime prescribes (!).

The third important point is that contrary to the various theories, all of which stress that the world system is becoming unipolar, Russia's political behavior toward America on the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran showed that having been freed from its nightmare and psychological pressures following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Moscow is now trying to gain its proper niche as Washington's equal partner in world affairs. Russia's proper stand toward American pressures and threats showed that the international system, with its various powers with possibly clashing interests can—under the current circumstances—be a favorable arena for the activities of independent countries and that both Europe and Japan can be considered favorable scenes in all this.

By linking its interests and its foreign policy to the Zionists' objectives in confronting Tehran, America has once again embarked on a path formerly traveled by more experienced leaders than Mr. Clinton and which has proven to be futile. The policy of an all-embracing embargo on Iran is a policy which is doomed to fail. Not only does this policy have no chance of succeeding on the international scene; inside America, too, state and non-governmental factions are expressing their opposition and have stated that this policy will fail even at the decision-making stage. The policy of intensifying the confrontation with Tehran is a defeated ploy, the Zionist engineers of which will draw the inexperienced Democrats into the quagmire of defeat for the second time in the fight against the Islamic Revolution. Therefore, it would be a good idea for Mr. Clinton to talk things over with Mr. Carter!

## NPC Threatens To Exclude 3 U.S. Companies

*LD1604073795 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 16 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—The managing director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), Ahmad Rahgozar, said that in response to the hostile stance of the U.S. against Iran, the NPC has threatened to delete three American companies from its customer list.

Speaking to the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS', published Sunday, he added, "we have verbally informed these companies that they would be excluded from NPC's selling roster and over the last four months it has refused to supply petrochemical products to these companies which is a great loss to them."

He announced that NPC has a contract to deliver dlrs. 300 million worth of petrochemical products to these three companies, adding that so far it has delivered dlrs. 60 million worth of goods.

With this exclusion they will be obliged to buy their needs from other countries at far higher prices, the daily quoted him as saying.

"Of course, we strictly abide by our commitments, but the reason for this exclusion is to respond to the mischievous attitude of the United States and to let them know that their subversive measures will encounter retaliation in a similar manner," Rahgozar concluded.

### U.S. Said Unable To Garner Global Support

*NC1804155595 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 5 Apr 95 p 15*

[Commentary by Sa'id Leylaz: "The United States and the Tested Policy of Iran's 'Boycott'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Moscow say the U.S. defense secretary has encountered defeat in his persistent efforts to motivate Russian echelons to annul the agreement of nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ostensibly, the termination of this cooperation was the main objective of William Perry's visit to Moscow but none of the Kremlin leaders, a list including the prime minister, defense minister, foreign minister, nuclear energy minister, and speaker of the State Duma, made even the slightest mention of any privileges to Washington in this regard in front of the television cameras or at bilateral press conferences.

Apparently Iran's access to nuclear technology is so important to the United States and Israel that, according to the U.S. defense secretary, this issue will be incorporated in the agenda of the summit session between Russia and the United States.

In recent weeks the official stances of the U.S. leaders, including the President and defense and state secretaries, even Congressional leaders, against the Islamic Republic of Iran have assumed such proportions that they have evolved into a propagandist, psychological, and even full-fledged military war against a country that is one of the farthest from the United States. Efforts to motivate its Western allies for an economic embargo of Iran, to prevent Japan from giving loans, for development plans in Khuzestan, provocative maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, needless and illogical arming of the littoral Persian Gulf countries in the name of the "Iranian danger," the outcry over the stockpiling of missiles and chemical weapons by Iran on its islands in the Persian Gulf, the nullification of its oil accords with the foreign branch of an American company, efforts for an international oil embargo, and so on betray a wave of intense propaganda that was formulated recently by the echelons of the White House and the Pentagon and has been implemented to strike a blow to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The frigid reaction by the European and Asian allies as well as Russia to Washington's request indicates that the United States will be unable to impose its views on its former allies or current "rivals." This is happening while the U.S. share of production, trade, and innovation in the field of international technology is decreasing in favor of the new competitors, such as India, the PRC, Southeast Asia, Japan, and united Europe. The prioritizing of economic issues after the Cold War does not permit U.S. rivals to relinquish the field voluntarily.

The 17-year experience of Iran on the international political and economic scene has proved that ultimately the political and economic pressures exerted on Iran have proved to be to its benefit. These pressures culminated in tempering it such that it gained self-reliance, indigenous innovative growth, economic prosperity, and the tapping of potential national talent, which is quite apparent to the Japanese and European leaders.

In view of the repetitive nature of these pressures and claims we see that the United States lacks its former power and that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not in the same situation as it was in the early years of the revolution. The world is not the same as it was at the beginning of the eighties. It is natural that the leaders of Russia—like the leaders of all other independent countries—should think of their national interests and their position at the beginning of the 21st century. In the contemporary world the size of fishing nets can pit two NATO members against one another—Canada and Spain—and bring them to the brink of a full- fledged conflict, which can swiftly become an intercontinental imbroglio between Europe and the United States.

Washington is at loggerheads with Moscow over more serious issues, such as Iran, the crisis in the Balkan peninsula, and Moscow's intransigent resistance despite its relative international weakness and its domestic and international economy languishing in the doldrums. This indicates, first, that Russia cannot afford to be anything but an independent superpower and, second, that the various factions ruling over Russia are unanimous and concurrent on the issue of strategic cooperation with Tehran.

The dispute between Washington and Moscow over Iran acquiring nuclear technology teaches us that to gain advanced technology we should not look toward this or that bloc. The immense spectrum of political and economic prowess in the contemporary world is evidence of its extensive variety and its nature, which is scattered worldwide.

With the trends observed after the disintegration of the bipolar system, this is a wonderful opportunity for heightening technological capability and for getting out of a system concentrated in one bloc. The experience of the imposed [Iran- Iraq] war and the problems stemming from the unipolar nature of ordnance technology can prove to be valuable experience for us.

### Yazdi Says Country 'Determining Power' in Region

*LD1804121995 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 18 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Prov., April 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is today looked upon as a determining power in decision-makings for the region and the world and the enemies cannot ignore this fact, said head of the judiciary.

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, in a meeting with Sunni ulema and clerics in Kangan township, in Bushehr Province underscored that Iran would resist against its enemies' illegal expectations and demands in the region.

Concerning the joint U.S.-Israeli propaganda on mass destruction weapons, Ayatollah Yazdi asked if the U.S. leaders claim to be against such weapons, why they kept silent versus the Zionist regime's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Yazdi warned the U.S. leaders to avoid instigation and plotting and rather think wisely.

He also described the Sunni ulema's duty at the present juncture as 'very important'.

He further called on the Sunni and Shia brothers to remain united and vigilant toward the plots being engineered by the enemies of Islam led by the criminal U.S.

## Underground Appeals to Israel on Jordan Radio Link

*TA1604122595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Apr 95 p 15*

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz in Paris]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iranian underground in Paris appealed to the Israeli Government, asking that it help convince Jordanian King Husayn to place at their disposal powerful radio transmitters located in east Jordan so that the underground's announcements can be relayed to the Iranian people.

The head of the Iranian underground in Paris, Dr. Manuchehr Ganji, met with Knesset Member [MK] Nisim Zvili, a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and relayed the request to him. Zvili promised to discuss the issue with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Ganji and Zvili met at a private apartment in the center of Paris which was guarded by six security personnel. Ganji, a former education minister in the shah's government, is number one on the Iranian regime's hit list. For two hours daily Ganji broadcasts to Iran using transmitters located on Egyptian territory. The Egyptians have lately informed him that the operation of the transmitters will be stopped shortly. Ganji explained to Zvili that under the current situation in Iran—with the resistance to the regime already being overt and people demonstrating in the streets—there is a great importance to the propaganda broadcasts of the Iranian underground which give guidance to the residents.

Ganji gave Zvili data about Iran's nuclear buildup and about the transfer of funds from Tehran to the terrorist organizations, including Hizballah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Zvili said he would hand the data to the prime minister, promising to meet with Ganji again soon. [passage omitted]

## Commentary Views U.S. Visit of Turkey's Ciller

*LD1604160795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 16 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Miss Tansu Ciller, prime minister of Turkey, Saturday 15 April left for America on a week-long visit. During the visit, which is her third to the United States in less than two years of her prime ministership, Miss Ciller will meet and confer with U.S. President Bill Clinton and other top U.S. officials.

Political observers are unanimous over the fact that main topic of these talks relates to Turkey's military intervention in northern Iraq, where the operations have been continuing for nearly one month. Even though Washington has apparently expressed no opposition to the operations, it wants a specific timetable for the withdrawal of the Turkish forces from northern Iraq. Reportedly, the Turkish prime minister, during her meetings with the White House officials, will try to reassure them in this regard. This is because since 1991, following the termination of the oil war, America, Britain, and France have declared the region of north of 36th parallel of Iraq as a safe area and the presence of military men—Turkish military men in particular—in that zone has displeased Washington.

It appears that close ties between Ankara and Washington and also Turkey's role as an important member of NATO in southwest Asia have made Miss Ciller hopeful of soliciting the U.S. officials' favorable opinion. The observers add: The Turkish prime minister will probably request the White House to use its influence among the European governments in order to lessen their opposition with the presence of Turkish troops in northern Iraq.

Another major subject, which has constantly figured in the talks between the Ankara and Washington officials, is the adverse economic situation of Turkey. This is at a time when not only Miss Ciller's promises on improving the country's economic situation have not been fulfilled but economic indices too point to the worsening of the crisis. This is very alarming for the United States, which considers Turkey as a strategic ally, turning it into the third highest receiver of its aids. For this very reason, experts believe that the Turkish prime minister will face considerable problems in explaining her government's policies with the American officials, both with regard to the shambolic [as heard] economy and also about the Turkish aggression against northern Iraq.

## Sudanese Interviewed Diplomat on Regional Issues

*NC1504113095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Apr 95 p 3*

[Report on interview with Dr. Qutbi al-Mahdi, Sudanese ambassador to Iran, by unidentified RESALAT correspondent "on the eve of Iranian Speaker Nateq Nuri's visit to Sudan on 8 April" in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Sudanese ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the record of cooperation between Iran and Sudan and said: In the past there were close relations between our two countries due to the system between the al-Numayri and the shah's governments, the objective of which was primarily to serve the interests of the colonialists' base.

He added: The attention and the flexibility of the liberating revolution had a direct effect on relations between Sudan and Iran, that is, it fostered Islamic solidarity. On this basis, political, cultural, and ideological cooperation between the two countries demanded that the Islamic identity of the two revolutions be emphasized.

He stated: In this regard, there has been convergence and coordination on political issues and steps have been taken in this direction. This political, ideological, and cultural coordination has paved the way for fraternal cooperation between the two nations and has culminated in such cooperation being implemented in practice. I hope we will continue to make such progress.

Dr. Qutbi al-Mahdi referred to the upcoming visit of the Islamic Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri to Sudan as a quantum leap in the relations between the two countries and said that his visit would delineate the trend of future relations. He added: This visit will have a great impact and will be extremely important in the history of Sudan, as this is the first time that a prominent personality such as Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, who holds the position of speaker of the Islamic Majles, one of the most important parliaments in the world and the strongest institution in the Islamic Republic of Iran, will be visiting.

Second, this visit will play a distinctive role in the strengthening of Muslims and I believe that the entire world's attention is riveted on it. Third, in view of the relations of the Islamic Majles speaker with the Sudanese, this visit will have very important and positive effects. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese ambassador in Tehran described the presence of the Islamic countries' advisory representatives in the international associations, including the Inter Parliamentary Union, as extremely important. He said: Participation cannot achieve results in decisionmaking in international sessions unless there has been prior consultation among the Muslim parliamentarians. Therefore, Islamic countries should regularly meet to consult with one another to attain a unified stance which should be projected in international organizations.

He added: In order to ensure that such consultations are fruitful, it is necessary that an organization of the parliaments of Islamic countries be set up so that the representatives of Islamic countries should engage in discussions and consultations among themselves. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran described the foreign presence, spearheaded by the criminal United States in the Islamic countries, the Middle East, and the Persian Gulf, as disruptive to the security of these regions and said: The Muslim nations should be firmly determined to identify their true enemy, expose his sinister objectives, and inform all of his seditious notions.

He said that stress on cordial relations among Islamic governments and sincere cooperation with one another can play a basic role in foiling the machinations of the foreigners.

Regarding his assessment of the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf region, Dr. al-Mahdi said: Iran's role in the security of the Persian Gulf is important because of the proposals it has propounded. The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly called for peace and security in the region and its proposals are consistently based on the principle of cooperation and goodneighborliness. He elaborated: The reinforcement of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region is due to the false propagandist atmosphere and the proliferation of the extent of hostility among the regional countries will only dissipate and destroy the security and peace of the region. [passage omitted]

Referring to the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah in the northern provinces of Sudan in toto, he said: The banking system, the economic and commercial systems in all the institutions and government and private organizations are based on Islamic injunctions and all are obliged to abide by the Islamic laws and ordinances.

He added: Sudan believes in the implementation of the injunctions of God Almighty and the Holy Koran and this issue is quite manifest in the legislature and the judiciary.

He recalled: There is very close cooperation between the legislatures and judiciaries as well as the parliaments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan has benefited greatly from the experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the implementation of the shari'ah and Islamic laws. [passage omitted]

On the issue of the West's cultural onslaught against the Islamic countries and Sudan in particular, Dr. al-Mahdi said: Since it is possible to combat the cultural onslaught with the means of mass communication the problem is that we have very limited resources in this regard. This also requires immense technology and capital and we cannot do this by ourselves. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made much progress in this regard and we can cooperate with the Islamic Government of Iran as regards the utilization of the means of mass communication.

The Sudanese ambassador stressed that the cultural programs should certainly conform to Islamic norms and emphasized: Recently the Sudanese Culture Ministry had decided that a satellite channel should be installed for the Sudanese people which would disseminate Islamic or Islamic-based programs.

He added: Just as satellite antennae are banned in the Islamic Republic of Iran, utilization of satellite programs is illegal and banned in Sudan as well.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan would broaden further in all areas of mutual interest and wished a warm welcome to the Speaker of the Islamic Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri on his upcoming visit to the country of Sudan.

## Pakistan

### Editorials View U.S. Stance, 'Pressure' on Iran

#### Clarification of Nation's Stance Urged

*BK1904045295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Apr 95 p 7*

[Editorial: "Stay Clear of Iran-U.S. Trouble"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a timely move Pakistan has made it clear that it does not necessarily share the perception of the United States towards Iran. The clarification cum statement has been made by the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in the midst of rising suspicions in Iran that the US, in the guise of cultivating Pakistan, had begun to encircle it, perhaps in preparation for future punitive action.

This paranoia has been heightened by the growing verbal bellicosity of senior US officials warning Iran of serious consequences if it were to pursue what they think is a nuclear programme meant for military purposes. Repeated denials by Tehran have not had any sobering effect on Washington that is building the pressure up. In this situation, and against the background of a long history of a bitter cold war with the United States, Tehran may have its reasons to feel insecure. However, after the latest assurance from Islamabad, some of its anxieties should be allayed.

That, however, is not the only reason which makes the step important and timely with Pakistan clarifying its position on the issue. Pakistan's foreign policy goals in the region have to be spelt out to the Americans. While Iran's worries over an impending showdown with Washington may be partly informed by its acute sense of isolation in the international community, there is little doubt about the US designs. President Bill Clinton has already called Iran the greatest threat to Middle East stability and has hinted at the possibility of imposing strict economic sanctions against it for allegedly expanding its $5 billion search for arms. As the US tightens the screws on Iran, it would also attempt to sway international public opinion in favour of its objectives, whatever they might be.

Before this begins to happen and puts states like Pakistan, that are friendly with both the adversaries, on the horns of a dilemma, it is prudent to adopt an independent policy line so that there is no room for any confusion on either side. While it may be in the interest of the US to jab at another Muslim state in the heart of a region that has yet to recover from the effects of an earlier such an adventure against Iraq in 1990 [year as published], it is in Pakistan's own good to unequivocally disassociate itself from the show in the making.

At the same time, Islamabad should also keep a keen watch on Tehran's moves as it manoeuvres to ward off the American pressure. The Iranian President is already in Delhi on a visit that the officials and media in both the countries have extraordinary played up. It would be interesting to see what comes of this visit and how much of Tehran's commitment to Kashmir, already whittled, is bartered for Indian diplomatic support and economic cooperation that it need so badly in a world that has turned hostile.

#### Bhutto Urged To Condemn U.S.'Threat'

*BK1904152495 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 19 Apr 95 P 10*

[Editorial: "Iran-India Relations—the U.S. Threat, Pakistan's Attitude, and the Chakwal Center"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that Pakistan has not made any threats against Iran. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on 17 April, he said that Pakistan's stance on Iran is opposite that of the United States. Iran is Pakistan's brotherly neighbor and Pakistan has very good relations with it. Ali, however, refused to make any comment on the U.S. threat against Iran. He acknowledged that U.S. personnel are working at the Chakwal seismic center, reasoning that the center does not come under the Pressler Amendment.

There was nothing new in what the foreign minister said at the press conference to demonstrate that the prime minister's visit to the United States was a "visit of victory." However, his remarks regarding Iran that "we did not issue any threat to Iran" and his avoidance of any comment on President Clinton's threat of taking action against Iran point to a situation at which all patriotic circles in Pakistan will definitely express concern. Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is currently visiting India. It has been reported by the world media that Iran has proposed an alliance with India and China. The editor of TEHRAN TIMES in an interview in New Delhi has said that the Pakistani prime minister's visit to the United States has not been very successful. If an alliance is reached between China, India, and Iran. then Pakistan may also be included in it.

The way the Iranian president was accorded a welcome in India indicates that India wants to manipulate the lack of warmth in Iran-Pakistan relationship for its own ends. Ignoring all protocol, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao went to the airport to receive the Iranian president. It is the first time since 1985 that a prime minister of India has been to the airport to receive the president of another country. India's opposition and radical Hindu party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, has termed Iran as India's "natural ally," while the Indian leaders hinted that Pakistan's nuclear program poses a threat to Iran as well.

It is worthwhile to note that when President Clinton threatened to take action against Iran, India strongly condemned this the next day and expressed solidarity with Iran. However, Pakistan gave no reaction to the threat. If someone still hopes—in light of what the foreign minister said at his news conference three days after the U.S. threat and the way he avoided making any comments on it—that the brotherly relation between Iran and Pakistan will remain unaffected, it is nothing but imprudence and lack of farsightedness. It is a fact that lately a state of lukewarmness has been prevailing in Pakistan's relations with China and Iran. The government-patronized "Thank You America" campaign launched by Prime Minister Bhutto during the visit and which is still continuing can naturally create misunderstanding in both China and Iran.

The U.S. efforts to get Pakistan's nuclear program rolled back as well as Pakistan's attitude to these efforts might also cause misunderstanding. It can be said very confidently that the main objective of the seismic center in Chakwal is to monitor the nuclear activities of China and Iran. By acknowledging at a 17 April press conference that American personnel are present at Chakwal, the Pakistani foreign minister has in fact not only acknowledged its real objectives but also confirmed China's and Iran's doubts and misgivings.

We cannot but express concern over this new turn in Iran-India relations. We cannot resist also expressing the apprehension that Pakistan's attitude in the backdrop of the U.S. President's threat to Iran and the presence of American personnel at Chakwal might push Iran away from Pakistan and closer to India. Although the Iranian stand on Kashmir is still in favor of Pakistan, there is a strong possibility that Iran might tilt toward India. Earlier, Iran displayed such a tilt at the United Nations and the international commission on human rights in relation to Pakistani resolutions on Kashmir. We would like the prime minister to take note of the situation and request her to openly condemn the U.S. President's threat against Iran so as to salvage the situation.

## Indo-Iranian Ties, Regional Security Viewed

*BK1904101095 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 19 Apr 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "Rafsanjani's visit to India"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit to India by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is significant not only in terms of Indo-Iranian ties but also in the context of regional security. For Iran, in a state of relative isolation engineered by the United States, stronger economic ties with India mean access to the latter's scientific and technological expertise. In return, Iran with its large proven reserves is enthusiastic about selling oil and natural gas to India whose requirements of natural gas, for instance, are about four times its production level. Among other things under consideration is a massive project for laying an oil pipeline from Iran to India, going through Pakistan, with an estimated cost of about $5 billion. Iran is also in a position to serve as a conduit for Indian trade with Central Asian Republics (CARs) and reportedly officials from Iran, India and Turkmenistan are already working on a trade pact with CARs. But what should be of even greater interest to Pakistan is Iran's perception of its security environment and India's place in it. Not too far back Iran had proposed an India-China-Iran axis to confront 'western hegemonism' in the region. And on his arrival in New Delhi the president was quoted by the Indian foreign minister as saying that India and Iran should co-operate in maintaining peace and stability in the region and should closely work together for resolving impediments in the way of realising these objectives.

All of this is not to say that the growing ties between India and Iran is a development at the expense of the latter's longstanding and close relationship with Pakistan. President Rafsanjani, for instance, is expected to take up the issue of Kashmir with the Indian leadership and to convey the sense of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] with regard to the massive human rights violations in the Valley and the need to move towards a resolution of the issue in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. In fact the postponement of his trip to India scheduled for last year was attributed in many quarters to the strong sentiment in sections of the Iranian leadership against India's Kashmir policy. Strategic factors, however, in addition to economic ones, are likely to facilitate closer ties between the two countries: Iran in the quest for nuclear technology also looks towards India which backed off from a deal to supply Iran with a nuclear reactor recently only as a result of pressure from the United States; given the US campaign that seeks to paint it in the role of a rogue state Iran is likely to seek greater reliance on India and China for countering such pressure; that tensions between China and India have eased after more than three decades is also likely to facilitate Iran's bilateral ties with the two countries. For Pakistan it is important, then, to ensure that its own longstanding relationship with the two, of major significance in the security context, is not undermined in any way. Pakistan's foreign minister did well to make it clear Monday that we do not share the US perceptions regarding Iran. If anything, Pakistan must strive to persuade the US that excessive pressure on Iran can be counter-productive and undermine the efforts of those who favour a key role for it in the context of regional peace and stability. Meanwhile, attempts to involve Iran in incidents of sectarian violence in Pakistan should be checked and the matter addressed bilaterally by the two countries.

## India's Prithvi Missile Program Viewed

*BK1504112495 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 15 Apr 95 p 10*

[Editorial:"Pakistan Will Counter Prithvi Missile"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has stated that Pakistan will [not] back off even one step from its stand on the Kashmir issue and its nuclear program. These issues concern our national dignity and the country's security, for which no pressure will be accepted. During his separate meetings with Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, the Azad Kashmir prime minister, and Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs, President Leghari said that the people of Kashmir are disillusioned with the global powers and have launched practical measures. History bears testimony to the fact that freedom movements cannot be suppressed by force. Condemning the Government of India for inducting the Prithvi missile into the Army, the president said Pakistan does not want to enter into a missile race. However, it is constrained to counter the Prithvi missile. Pakistan cannot remain oblivious to its defense requirements. He told the world powers that if they are serious and sincere in wanting to establish a durable peace in the region, they should impose sanctions on India as well rather than meting out unfair treatment to Pakistan. Due to its nuclear policy, India poses a threat not only to Pakistan, but also to all the countries of the region. In this context, Pakistan will be justified in finding out an alternative to India's missile technology.

### 'Alternatives' to Weapons Seen

*BK1904104995 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 18 Apr 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "There is an Alternative to India's Nuclear Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-level meeting held at the President House and attended by President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari; Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto; General Abdul Waheed, chief of Army Staff; Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; and Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, discussed in detail the implications of India's nuclear and missile programs. Reviewing the effects and outcome of the prime minister's visit to the United States, the meeting agreed that the country's defense and stability are more important than international understanding. The meeting decided not to accept any pressure in this connection. The meeting also called the Indian Government's move to induct the "Prithvi" nuclear missile into the Army a threat to Pakistan's security and openly stated that Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to its own stability and security. India's action is a provocation against Pakistan and other regional countries; hence, countering New Delhi's designs should be the country's primary goal.

The prime minister said she made it clear to the U.S. Administration that despite being a supporter of nuclear nonproliferation, Pakistan will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty until India destroys its nuclear weapons and signs the treaty. General Abdul Waheed told the meeting that Pakistan's defense agenda is being prepared at the five-day meeting of the formation commanders and will be very significant to the region. He said: The Pakistani Army cannot be browbeaten by any threat. We have alternatives to every Indian nuclear and conventional weapon.

According to President House sources, the meeting also discussed the revision of the amendment to the testimony law through presidential ordinance in view of the strong reaction from human rights organizations and opposition parties.

No country can ignore the serious threat India poses to regional peace and stability due to the continuation of its nuclear and missile programs. It will be a matter of satisfaction to the people of Pakistan that the government not only has the resolve to counter India's nuclear and missile ambitions, but has sources and resources as well. India is 10 or 11 times bigger than Pakistan, but this does not mean that Pakistan will be daunted or frightened by India's size and abundant resources or will give India a free hand to carry out its whims. The existence of peace and stability in the region and the world depends upon strict adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence. As long as India does not free itself of the craze of expansionism, get rid of its lust for dominance, or conform with the need to establish friendly ties with all countries on an equitable basis, reviving and maintaining good neighborly relations with that country will be impossible.

## Ambassador on Possible Purchase of Arms From Russia

*BK1904124795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Apr 95 pp 1, 4*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP)—Pakistan is keen to purchase Russian arms particularly aircraft but the later has yet to take the final decision in this regard, said Pakistan's Ambassador to Moscow Tanvir Ahmad Khan in an interview with "Dipkuryer" [not further identified].

"Our possible purchase of armaments in Russia is still being considered by the two countries Governments, since the Russian side has not so far defined a clear position in this issue—whether or not sell weapons to Pakistan. The sphere of military cooperation awaits its political decision," he said.

Pakistan Air Force, he said, considered "Russian combat aircraft to be some of the best and most perfect in the world, with a high competitive edge," he said.

He said Pakistan has "several options". One of them is certainly a possibility of Russia selling armaments to Pakistan. "We are extremely interested in it, primarily in diverse deliveries."

During the last nearly ten years Pakistan has not moderenised its defence facilities, said Khan. He said Pakistan has had to face certain difficulties about arms deliveries from the USA, which used to be the major source of such supplies. He said "these difficulties led to the gradual erosion of Pakistan armed forces combat potential." Pakistan is located in South Asia, which lacked a collective security system or any other reliable mechanism of settling conflicts and adjusting disputes. Khan said that was the reason Pakistan was "forced to try and maintain our deterrence means at a certain level."

Q. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mrs Benazir Bhutto is to visit Russia in the first half of this year. What issues in Islamabad's view are the two countries' leaders to discuss?

A. The oncoming summit between the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Russian leadership is to be of great importance. The two countries are almost neighbours and at the same time play an important role in international affairs. Pakistan is an active participant of the Islamic Conference Organisation the Non-Alignment Movement and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation uniting under one "umbrella" Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and a number of CIS countries.

Pakistan government believes that after the end of the "cold war" the main political problems in South Asia have undergone dramatic changes. Broad possibilities for developing cooperation and trade have opened up between Russia and CIS member-states on the one hand and between Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and entire Western Asia on the other. As a potential partner China can be added here, too.

During contacts at different levels which have taken place between Islamabad and Moscow, among them talks between the two countries' Foreign Ministers, a wide range of issues of mutual interest was tackled. Still, this is to be "officially confirmed" at the top level, that of heads of state and governments.

So we attach major importance to the oncoming visit to Moscow of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto which she is looking forward to impatiently. Talks with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and President Boris Yeltsin are scheduled during the visit. We are convinced that the two parties have something to discuss, and the very discussion of prospects of cooperation at the negotiation table is extremely important, too. Many problems of the region may be settled with better results in case Russia and Pakistan cooperate.

Russia and Pakistan cooperate closely in promoting peace in Tajikistan. Both the parties are doing their best to stimulate the political process there aimed at achieving peaceful settlement and Pakistan on its part will spare no effort to establish peace and stability in that country.

The situation in Afghanistan continues to be a source of concern and anxiety. So far little has been done there to build a unified state which is what both Russia and Pakistan would like to see. Our both countries are for territorial integrity of Afghanistan, its independence and sovereignty. Moscow and Islamabad are able to a great extent promote democratic reforms in that country, as well as incidentally in the entire region. This means to say primarily that we do not support any extremist activities, be it either political or religious extremism. This is just our common agenda for the oncoming talks as well as our chance to work together.

As for the problem of Chechnya, it is entirely an inner affair of the Russian Federation. So we are not in a position to interfere here, but being on friendly terms with the Russian Federation, Pakistan could discuss different ways of settling it in order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation, which is sometimes the case. In this way, we have a broad field of cooperation in front of us, and the earlier the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Russian leaders can meet, the better.

Q. There are still Russian POWs in Afghanistan.

A. As for Russian servicemen captured in Afghanistan during the war, Pakistan has always tried and continues to promote the settlement of this problem since the moment it appeared, that is to say since the time the Soviet troops were still in Afghanistan. Our stand is this: POWs should be provided security and a chance to return home.

Still, the situation in Afghanistan as it is now, makes a search for missing former Soviet Soldiers very difficult. On our part, we have assured the leaders of the Russian Federation, as well as of Ukraine and Central Asian states that we will do our best to find all POWs still in Afghanistan. Pakistan special services are to play their role in this, their task being to obtain information needed and establish contact with "Requisite" People-field commanders controlling different parts of Afghanistan.

Q. The armed movement of Afghan students, "Taleban" is conducting successful operations on front lines and as they say not without Pakistani support.

A. As for Pakistani support, this has nothing to do with reality. But the emergence of this movement needs to be explained. It seems to have appeared due to increasing disillusionment, especially among Afghan youth, with Mojahedin leaders' policy. Quite a long time has passed since the Soviet Army withdrawal from Afghanistan, but all these years were not sufficient enough to put the country on the road of peaceful development that is why a growing number of people have bitter feelings about there being no end to the conflict.

So the "Taleban" movement may be considered as a reaction to the current situation in Afghanistan. Certain young people assumed they could push things forward, towards national unity of some kind. There is no question of Pakistan supporting this movement.

As it is, what we are trying to do is to better understand the sources and the driving forces of this movement. It is only natural, we would like to establish a contact with the "Taleban" people. At the same time Pakistan is somewhat concerned about the movement's leaders mentioning forming a government which will supposedly have extremist and authoritarian inclinations.

It is common knowledge that Pakistan is proud it is a democratic country with a multi-party system observing the liberty of conscience and freedom of speech. All strata of population enjoy these freedoms. So being concerned about it, we do not support extremist tendencies wherever they manifest themselves. This is our position.

Speaking of "Taleban's" war success, it can be primarily explained by the people's disillusionment of Mojahedin leaders' policy. One also has an impression that many field commanders have joined the "Taleban" forces bringing their fighters and armaments. What other explanation can there be to the fact that students have learned to be so efficient in dealing with modern kinds of weapons during large-scale offensive operations. The add to this one should remember that the greater part of the territory occupied by the "Taleban" force was seized practically without fighting—the enemy just went over to their side, as simple as that.

Q. What can you say of Russian-Pakistani trade relations?

A. Russia and Pakistan have a huge potential for bilateral trade. Unfortunately this potential has not yet been implemented. Last year Pakistan's export from Russia hardly reached dollars 70 mln [million].

This is by far less than what Pakistan and Russia could have. Islamabad believes that much can be done to increase our trade cooperation. The main obstacle here to my mind is the fact that both our economies are undergoing changes: Russia is shifting to market economy, free trade and privatisation. We witness similar developments in Pakistan, too. We hope that Pakistan Prime Minister's visit to Moscow will provide many Pakistani businessmen with an opportunity to come to the capital of Russia. As a result of such bilateral contacts a new trade agreement is expected to be signed, which is now being refined, and bilateral trade will get a powerful impetus.

Among documents to be signed the most important one is a document which can be called an agreement. It is to determine the general principles of bilateral relations based on good neighbourliness. In other words this is an all-embracing agreement which will framework future Russian-Pakistani relations. The package of bilateral agreements also includes agreements on trade, culture, avoiding double taxation, etc.

Q. Recently India was visited by the Liberal Democrats' leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

A. In our opinion, this visit was used to address not the entire Indian people but a part of it which has extremist and fascist (as its most characteristic manifestation) inclinations.

The Russian politician talked of redrafting the modern map of South Asia and put in question the existence of such sovereign states as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan. Statements like that only show that Mr Zhirinovskiy is not well informed of the situation in this part of the world and its history. We do not think that this method of conveying one's opinion promotes a favourable image of the political scene of Russia whose characters are actually quite scrupulous, especially when dealing with observing the principles of non-interference into other countries' internal affairs and respect of national sovereignty.

So in my opinion Mr Zhirinovskiy not so much a problem for South Asia as for Russia.

## Sri Lanka

### Rebels Announce Unilateral Withdrawal From Truce

*BK2004020995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1839 GMT 19 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, April 19 (AFP)—The Tamil Tiger rebels Wednesday [19 April] accused the Sri Lankan government of seeking military gains while negotiating for peace and officially announced their unilateral withdrawal from a truce.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said it was left with no choice but to pullout of the six-month old talks with the government and withdraw from a truce which went into effect on January 8.

"The achievement of military gains seems to be uppermost in the government thinking. What is more, the government was taking care to exploit the agreement on the cessation of hostilities to build up its armed strength," the LTTE said.

In a statement sent to news agencies here from its London office, the LTTE accused the government of "procrastinating" on its key demand to dismantle an army camp but made no reference to Wednesday's sinking of two navy gunboats.

The government said the LTTE carried out a suicide attack on two Chinese-built gunboats berthed at the northeastern port of Trincomalee, killing 12 sailors and losing four of its own cadres.

The government has responded by revoking concessions granted to the LTTE during negotiations in the past six months and placed security forces on maximum alert with shoot-on-sight orders to defend army camps.

The Tigers have been leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent homeland for the two million Tamil minority concentrated in the island's northeast. More than 30,000 people have died in bitter fighting in the past 23 years.

### Shell Army Camps; 3 Injured

*BK2004061095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, April 20 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas shelled army positions in northern Sri Lanka Thursday [20 April], a day after blasting two navy gunboats to mark their pullout from a three-month-old truce, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched the long-range pre-dawn attacks using rockets and mortar bombs against at least three military positions, leaving three soldiers wounded, a military spokesman said.

"We have not retaliated using artillery guns yet because the rockets and mortars did not cause much damage to us. But we will take defensive action," the spokesman said.

He said the rebels had also fired automatic rifles early Thursday at a few army bunkers outside the sprawling northern Palaly military complex located within the LTTE-held Jaffna peninsula.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga has already placed security forces on maximum alert following the LTTE's suicide attack against two navy gunboats berthed at the northeastern port of Trincomalee.

Defence officials said soldiers have been issued with shoot-to kill orders to defend their position in rebel dominated northern and eastern regions.

Meanwhile, a LTTE rebel arrested at a security check-post in the island's east Wednesday killed himself with a cyanide capsule, the military said.

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